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# P&O'S SUPER-FERRY WELCOMED TO PORT

**WHAT'S ON & WATCH**

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**ALL ABOARD:** The biggest ever Channel ferry arrives in Dover, P&O's stunning Pride of Britain

**ALSO INSIDE**

**LETTERS**.....PAGE 9  
**LEISURE**.....PAGES 14-21  
**JOB**.....PAGES 26-27  
**SPORT**.....PAGES 30-31

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DHB Doughty and Dauntless salute the arrival of the Spirit of Britain with their water cannons. The largest ferry ever to cross the Channel is expected to make her maiden voyage on Friday, January 21.

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

P&O FERRIES' new multi-million pound super-ferry arrived in Dover on Sunday, following her three-day voyage from the shipyard in Finland where she was built.

The Spirit of Britain sailed through the Eastern entrance of the harbour bang on time at 11am, and was greeted by a salute from the Dover Harbour Board tugs, DHB Doughty and Dauntless.

The 1,500-mile voyage began in Rauma, Finland, where the colossal ship had to be led through frozen seas by an ice breaker. But she arrived in Dover under cloudless blue skies.

Less than three years after the order was made, the Spirit of Britain arrived at the exact time that shipyard STX Europe had said.

On arrival, Captain David Miller pirouetted the giant 49,000-tonne ship in the harbour to the delight of the assembled crowd of photographers and interested locals, before docking on the Eastern arm of the harbour.

As the latest addition to P&O's fleet docked, she dwarfed the Pride of Calais, which is due to be replaced in September by the second of the super ferries, the Spirit of France.

The crew, many of whom served on the Spirit of Britain's predecessor, the Pride of Dover, then boarded the ship for the first time, ahead of their three-and-a-half hour induction to their new workplace.

Captain Miller, who also sailed the Pride of Dover, was elated to have to the opportunity to sail the ship into Dover.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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## INSIDE THIS WEEK

**NEWS**..... PAGES 4-7  
**Q&A** ..... PAGE 8  
**LETTERS**..... PAGE 9  
**SCHOOLS**..... PAGE 12  
**PROPERTY**... PAGES 24-25  
**JOBS**..... PAGES 26-27  
**CLASSIFIED**..... PAGE 29  
**SPORT**..... PAGES 30-31

## INSIDE your lifestyle



PAGES 13-20 **LEISURE**  
 PAGE 14 **INTERVIEW**  
 PAGE 18 **WEATHER**  
 PAGE 20 **MUSIC/TRAVEL**  
 PAGES 21-23 **MOTORING**

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Eastern and Coastal Kent **NHS**  
 Community Health  
 NHS Trust

### Do you want to find out more about your local NHS services in the community?

We are holding a showcase event, which gives you the opportunity to find out more about some of the 36 services we provide like community dentistry, physiotherapy and community nursing.

A question and answer session near the end of the Showcase will give you the chance to ask any burning questions to the directors that manage your community services.

Information about how social services, charities and local voluntary organisations can help you will also be available.

On 27 January 2011, starting at 11am and finishing at 1pm, the Showcase will be held at:

The Ark,  
 Noah's Ark Road,  
 Dover,  
 CT17 0DD

Tel: 01304 225737



The Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust Board Meeting in Public will also take place at The Ark on the same day starting at 1:30pm and closing at 4:30pm. Refreshments are provided between the Showcase and the Board Meeting.

Copies of the Board Papers are available on our website, please visit [www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk](http://www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk).

For questions relating to the Board Meeting please contact Jill Mackenzie on 01233 667840 or email [jill.mackenzie@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk](mailto:jill.mackenzie@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk).

**TO BE SCRAPPED:** Anglian Monarch is one of the vessels which patrols our coast



Picture: ROGER FOURNIER

# Changes to safety policy will put lives at risk, say union

GOVERNMENT plans to make ship owners responsible for towing their own vessels into port will affect safety at sea, says a leading maritime trade union.

Four emergency towing vehicles (ETVs) will no longer be maintained and paid for out of public funds under new measures.

The union Nautilus is claiming that proposed cuts, which will see the Anglian Monarch, which patrols the Dover Strait, and three other ETVs, scrapped, will put lives and the environment at risk.

The ETVs are called into action in emergency situations to recover stricken ships off the Kent coast, as well as aiding in any environmental disasters.

The ETV Anglian Monarch was called out on Christmas Eve to attend an emergency on the Turkish cargo ship Eren Turgut which was without power, propulsion and lights.

An onboard fire, which knocked out the power supply, fatally injured one crew member and critically wounded another two.

Nautilus is seeking talks with the shipping minister to discuss its concerns about plans to end the contract for vessels, which provide crucial salvage back-up in the event of shipping accidents and which were introduced in response to the Braer and Sea Empress tanker disasters.

A statement from the union said: "Emergency towing vessels are mainly deployed when vessels break down.

"The government believes state provision of ETVs does not represent a correct use of taxpayers' money and that ship salvage should be a commercial matter between a ship's operator and the salvor."

Nautilus general secretary Mark Dickinson said: "The government is gambling with lives, the environment and safety at sea by embarking on this strategy.

"The thinking behind this is utterly incomprehensible and we will do all we can to persuade the government to reconsider.

"The ETVs were put in place for good reasons, following reports into two terrible tanker disasters, and their success has proved to be a model for other countries.

"The number of recent incidents and near-misses in the Channel alone serves to demonstrate the value of these vessels, and it is clear the government is running a significant risk in removing the protection they provide.

"The proposed savings represent a drop in the ocean in terms of the overall DfT budget, but the loss of these services could make the difference between life and death or a major environmental disaster."

Half of the costs for the Anglian Monarch are met by the French and if the Government removes the funding, only £32.5 million will be saved in the spending review period.

Campaigner to keep the Anglian Monarch operational, Jean Hendry, said: "Its cost is shared 50/50 with France, where its presence in our shared sea area is greatly valued... it is something we cannot afford to be without."

## Companies beware taking on illegal staff

THE UK Border Agency (UKBA) has vowed to continue a crackdown on illegal workers in the South East.

Throughout 2010, fines, also known as civil penalties, of more than £300,000 were issued to employers for taking on illegal workers.

In a joint statement, the heads of UKBA's immigration teams for Hampshire and Kent said: "We've had a lot of success targeting firms who employ illegal workers, but we are gathering intelligence all the time, and more raids are planned for 2011."

Every year, UKBA imposes civil penalties on thousands of companies which fail to carry out the necessary right-to-work checks on their staff.

See [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk)

## New space for artists to be more creative

THE Dover Arts Development group (DAD) enters the New Year with a new studio for aspiring artists to use.

The facility is the former Royal Mail sorting office in Dover which has been reactivated and made available as a workshop.

DAD aims to make the space available on a flexible basis, with weekly, monthly or longer term agreements open for discussion.

DAD is also preparing to welcome in the Chinese New Year on Thursday, February 3, on the seafront. To see in the year of the rabbit, a series of performances are planned from 6pm at the New North Downs Way end of trail marker.

See [www.dadonline.eu](http://www.dadonline.eu) for details.

## Gang of men robbed boy on New Year's Eve

A TEENAGER was mugged on New Year's Eve by a gang of five men.

The 14-year-old boy was heading towards Dover Priory railway station at 6.15pm when he was approached.

The men surrounded their victim and removed his gold sovereign ring, stole some cash and then made their way to the station, where they boarded a train heading to Folkestone.

Four of the men are described as white and one as black.

A 30-year-old man from Deal and a 40-year-old from Dover were arrested and have been released on bail while officers make further enquiries.

Call police on 01622 690690 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

# Snow damage repairs to begin soon

THE impact of December's snow continues to be felt as a road has been closed following the collapse of a wall.

Fishmonger's Lane remains closed following the first floor wall above Kings Kebabs falling into the street on Tuesday, December 21.

Scaffolding has been erected and the road shut off to prevent further failures of the structure and to allow essential repairs to take place.

During the freezing conditions, water and ice penetrated into the brickwork, weakening the structure and leading to the collapse.

The following day, more debris fell, this time with masonry from the Metropole landing in Cannon Street outside the Subway store.

Dover council's building control manager Martin Leggett said: "The council is now working with the building owner to identify what work

is needed to repair the wall and make it safe permanently.

"It is hoped reconstruction will start shortly so that the road can be re-opened as soon as possible."

With the possibility that the snow and ice may have weakened other areas of masonry and brickwork, DDC are reminding property owners that they are accountable for the safety and stability of their buildings.

Mr Leggett said: "Occurrences of falling masonry are thankfully rare.

"The reason for incidents like these is likely to be water getting into the masonry, which then freezes and expands.

"The responsibility for ensuring a building is safe lies in the first place not with the council but with the owner of each building.

"The council therefore strongly advises building owners to check



**COLLAPSED WALL:** Fishmonger's Lane

that their buildings are in a safe condition, and that gutters and downpipes are working properly."



# Step aboard for the latest in ferry design

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

THE arrival of the Spirit of Britain in Dover heralds a new era in ferry travel between Britain and France.

The new ship, and her sister ship, the Spirit of France, which is due for completion next year, represents hundreds of millions of pounds of investment by P&O.

The pair will be the largest-ever ships used on the Dover to Calais route.

At more than 49,000 tonnes, 213 metres long and more than 31 metres wide, the Spirit of Britain offers double the carrying capacity of the Pride of Dover, the ferry she replaces.

There are three decks for traffic – two for freight and one for other vehicles – giving the new ferry the ability to carry 200 cars and 180 lorries on each crossing.

Once docked, the four kilometres of traffic will be cleared and the next passenger and freight traffic will be loaded for the return journey within 45 minutes.

On board, P&O has made the most of the available space, with numerous restaurants and a retail area that uses the full width of the ship.

The family restaurant and area is positioned at the front of the ship, where the club lounge is found on older vessels, to make the most of the full-length windows.

The club lounge can be found at the rear of the ferry, but boasts a private staircase and lift from the car decks and a private balcony area, exclusively for club travellers.

Freight drivers are well catered for as well, with dozens of reclining chairs which have individual monitors hooked up to multi-lingual Sky TV.

Truckers also have their own private restaurant, and will be able to make use of the 25 showers on board.

Operations manager Nigel Davies



**RECORD BREAKER:** The Spirit of Britain, above, and below, from left, the family area, which features images capturing the spirit of Britain, the freight deck – one of three vehicle decks, and a colourful flower theme helps passengers find their way around the ferry



said: "We value our freight customers very much; they are our core business."

"New innovations here include a series of reclining seats with video displays, wi-fi so there is internet access and a retail area, as well as their own balcony, part of which will be a smoking area."

P&O has been intimately involved during the fitting out of their new ship, with senior figures spending months at the shipyard in Finland.

This has allowed them to create a pleasant environment for their passengers and, just as importantly, the crew, who can spend up to half of the year living and working on board.

Recycling centres have been creat-

ed on board, meaning the vessel will comply with future laws, while navigation around the ship is made easier with clearly defined areas of the ship – red, yellow and blue – marked out with colourful stairwells, decorated with poppy, sunflower and lavender backgrounds.

Mr Davies said: "If you think about one of the key problems people have had in the past, it is getting disorientated."

"If you look at the fantastic pictures of the poppies, sunflowers and lavender, it is pretty bold, but you remember it."

The Spirit of Britain is expected to make its maiden passenger voyage at 9.20am on Friday, January 21.

## Port updated to welcome new arrival

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

He said: "It was a joy to bring her into Dover for the first time. I was absolutely delighted."

"When we designed the ship, we wanted to focus on the sea-keeping ability of the ship because we know one of the things passengers will consider is whether they are comfortable."

"We've had a lot of gales on the way back from Rauma, and the ship performed superbly."

The £150 million ferry is due to make her first Dover to Calais crossing on Friday, January 21, but first needs to complete a number of berthing tests and essential training exercises in both Dover and Calais.

The Spirit of Britain has twice the capacity of her predecessor, the Pride of Dover, being able to ship 200 cars and 180 lorries in one crossing, but she still uses the same amount of fuel on each crossing.

Helen Deeble, chief executive of P&O Ferries, said: "We are delighted to welcome this fantastic new ship to Dover ready to start service later this month."

"She offers a leap forward in terms of her size and the quality of the build, and I'm confident she'll provide a fantastic experience for all of the customers who will travel on her."

The Port of Dover has made a series of investments to update the port to cope with the Spirit of Britain.

More than £40 million has been spent improving the infrastructure and removing a WW1 blockship to ensure that the ferry can navigate and berth safely.

Bob Goldfield, Chief Executive, Port of Dover said: "We are pleased to welcome the Spirit of Britain to the Port of Dover."

## Funding blow means end of jobs programme

A SUCCESSFUL initiative helping young people into work has fallen victim to Government spending cuts.

The Channel Chamber of Commerce will see central government funding for the Future Jobs Fund programme end in March, forcing them to shut the scheme down.

Under the programme, young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) who have been out of work for six months or more, could be directly employed by the Channel Chamber of Commerce for half a year, and then given the chance to work for local business for up to four months, gaining valuable experience.

The chief executive of the Channel Chamber of Commerce, Peter Hobbs, said: "We are involved with the Future Jobs Fund, introduced 18

months ago by the government. However as part of the government's spending review, it will end in March.

"We take on unemployed young people for six months to get them job-ready. We employ them from the Jobcentre and they are fully paid."

"In Dover town, there are a series of different businesses, but most of them are small, with only five to ten members of staff. They don't have the time or energy to find new staff, so we recommend our young people."

"It is valuable work experience and it improves their employability tenfold, because on their CV they can now say that they have been in work."

"After March we will not be taking on anyone new, but those we have taken on will be employed for the full six months."

While the Future Jobs Fund will stop taking on people in March, Kent County Council has provided £5 million for social enterprises and schemes to get young people into work.

Kent County Council cabinet member for community services Mike Hill said: "Growing the Kent economy will be critical to the creation of new jobs for Kent residents, and we recognise that Kent business needs a skilled and motivated workforce."

"Therefore Kent County Council has committed £5 million to establish a Big Society fund for Kent, aimed at supporting social enterprises, social entrepreneurs and other not-for-profit groups that provide employment opportunities which support social inclusion in Kent."

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• Champagne Check-in at St Pancras • Escorted throughout  
• Afternoon departure on Eurostar to Lille • 1 night hotel B&B in Lille • TGV rail travel to Nice • 6 nights in Diano Marina, Italy, at the Piccolo Hotel with 6 breakfasts & 6 dinners with free wine & water PLUS free tea & coffee daily AND nightly Free bar - house wine/beers/ spirits 6pm to 12am • Included visits to Monaco, Portofino, Eze & San Remo • Return rail travel Nice to London • All transfers abroad

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## Mamma Mia Party

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight - Over 50s only



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ABTA Y0291



# Back of the net! Great day with Chelsea stars

■ BY NICK AMES

DOVER soldier Gaz Meachin and his son Jordan received a special good luck message before he deployed to Afghanistan – from stars of Premiership club Chelsea.

Sergeant Meachin, 31, of the Royal Logistic Corps, is now on a six-month tour of duty in Helmand province.

But before he went he visited Chelsea FC's Cobham training ground.

Along with son Jordan, ten, he went to the fence to see if he could catch a glimpse of any of the players as they arrived for practice.

England midfielder Frank Lampard noticed them – with Sgt Meachin in uniform – and decided they had to get into the training ground. Father and son were then given the opportunity to spend the morning watching the players train.

They also met captain John Terry, goalkeeper Petr Cech and midfielder Florent Malouda.

Jordan, a pupil at St Mary's Primary in Dover, said he was really excited about the day and on returning to school was the envy of his friends – especially as when leaving the session, John Terry took off his boots, signed them and gave them to Jordan.

Sgt Meachin said: "The players were very supportive and bent over backwards to accommodate us and to make it a special day for Jordan. All the team were down to earth and genuinely nice. They were interested in where I was going and what I was doing.

"We're hoping to see Chelsea play Blackburn Rovers at home [this Saturday] when I come home for two weeks of R&R, so that's been keeping me going throughout the early stages of my tour."

Sgt Meachin is attached to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland, working as a combat chef. He is based at the Helmand police training centre outside Lashkar Gah and previously served in Northern Ireland,



**BLUE IS THE COLOUR:** Gaz Meachin and Jordan with Chelsea's England star Frank Lampard

Bosnia and Iraq. This is his first tour of Afghanistan. 5 Scots deployed as part of 16 Air Assault Brigade, and are responsible for training and mentoring the Afghan National Police and bringing the force up to a sufficiently high standard to take over security responsibilities now performed by NATO troops.

They will remain in Helmand until April. There are about 117,000 fully-trained Afghan National Police officers and the aim is to reach a target of 134,000 by the end of 2011.

5 Scots' work in Helmand represents a key part of achieving this target.

Sgt Meachin said: "The best thing about being in Afghanistan – and about the Army in general – is being part of such a great team.

"Everyone has their own part to play. 5 Scots are making great progress here and I'm proud to be part of that."



**FAIR PLAY:** With skipper John Terry, left, and French winger Florent Malouda

## Bandstand mural strikes chord

A PAINTING depicting the Royal Marines at Walmer Green bandstand is decorating a Deal pathway.

It is the work of artist Penny Bearman, who lives locally and has produced murals to brighten boarded-up buildings in the district. The painting, which also shows the clockhouse, was put up by Phil Everitt, owner of the Clockhouse Café.

"It is opposite my premises and because of the clockhouse I thought it was appropriate," he said. "The Royal Marines are a part of the town, which adds to its popularity.

"I've had many people come for a walk down here just to take a look at it. It's a great way to brighten up what was just a wall space outside the café."

Ms Bearman has painted many local



**MURAL:** Bandstand painting by Penny Bearman scenes and has also been working in Dover. "I can't see a boarded up building without wanting to paint on it," she said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Film festival opportunity

THE 2011 Dover Film Festival short film competition is open for entries – and there's still time to submit your own piece of movie magic.

Films received so far include: Sweet Dreams Are Made of Cheese, by Barry Leech; I Saw a Zombie Eat Santa Claus, by Lily Jenkins and Ben Steele; Bag Job, by Chloe Atkins, Lily Jenkins and Ben Steele; and The Weekend Hostage, by Michael Donaghy – all in the fictional category.

In the documentary section, four films have been entered so far. These are: Voice of the People, by Marjorie Van Halteren; Discover Folkestone, by Colin Baggott; The Few, by Colin Baggott; and A Trip on a Helicopter, by Colin Baggott.

Download an entry form at [www.doverfilm.com/2011ShortFilmsentries.html](http://www.doverfilm.com/2011ShortFilmsentries.html).

Films must be submitted in DVD format by Tuesday, February 1.

### Foreign shoplifter jailed

A LITHUANIAN has been sentenced to a month in jail for six counts of theft.

Augustas Gavenavicius, 29, was found guilty of stealing more than £1,000 of goods by Channel Magistrates' Court, Dover.

The shoplifting took place in Canterbury between December 16-22. Gavenavicius pleaded guilty to all offences.

He stole clothing from five stores, totalling £460 from TK Maxx, £265 from River Island, £120 from Republic, £200 from Sports Direct and £320 from H&M.

He also stole batteries worth £250 from Halfords. Magistrates sentenced him to 28 days for each offence, to run concurrently.

### Keeping patients in trim

NHS staff are searching for hairdressers willing to help patients look their best.

Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS Trust is seeking hairdressers to deliver a service to inpatients at the community hospital in Deal.

Ideally, volunteers would be able to offer two days per month to do haircuts, blow-drys and shampoos and sets at patients' requests.

For more information, contact Claire Doran, volunteer service manager, on 01227 594758 or email [claire.doran@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk](mailto:claire.doran@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk).

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## Women Seeking

**IF YOU'RE LOOKING** to meet or chat to someone look no further **TEXT CHAT883 to 6525** for chat with pictures, fun and safe service.

**BEAUTIFUL** slim, black female, HIV positive, good qualities, seeks genuine, kind, white male, 30-47 to share life with. Cambridge/London/Tunbridge Well. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356493

**LONELY** female, petite, attractive, size 8-10, blue eyes, long hair, likes historic places, holidays, meals out, seeks honest, genuine male for friendship initially. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356359

**HAPPY** fun loving, attractive, intelligent, educated, slim, curvy female, late 40's, WLTm caring, sincere man interested in theatre, reading, arts, nature and walks for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356613

**ADORABLE** black female, 37, slim, affable, enjoys music, reading, theatre, laughter, nature, seeks genuine gent, 37-49 who is caring, N/S and lives near London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815

**CONFIDENT** young female who knows what she wants out of life, looking for open minded, outgoing guy for adult conversations/meets. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356153

**BEV** petite and trendy with a nice figure, solvent, animal friendly and looking for soul mate up for lots of fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356149

I might be 47 but am certainly not over the hill yet! Attractive and looking for a good reason to get back in shape. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356147

**LATE** 40's female, likes most things, animals, walks, cinema, seeks male 45-59 for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348941

**29YR** old female, 5ft 3ins, size 12, long brown hair, seeks childless male, 29-40, Margate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383026

**ATTRACTIVE** black lady, 5ft 6ins, black hair, slim, kissable lips, likes walks, horse riding, go karts, seeks professional white male, 35-45, athletic, 5ft 11ins-6ft. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353897

**BLACK** female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male, 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382910

**41YR** old divorced female, likes astrology, writing, cats, seeks fun loving guy with GSOH. Rochester. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381528

**FIT** lady, 65, thinks she's 40, N/S, loves life, seeks genuine gent, 60-70 N/S for happy loving, exciting times. Gravesend. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353111

**VICKY** attractive, kind, down to earth, black British, likes travel, writing, reading, cooking, socialising, seeks generous, good man who is family orientated. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353033

**56YR** old female, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, N/S, likes socialising, cards, dancing, racket ball, seeks male, 50-65, Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353773

**YOUNG** at heart 50's tall, slim, blue eyed blonde, honest, caring, seeks tall, strong, confident, young at heart male, 50-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350337

**41YR** old lady, young at heart, blue eyes, long dark hair, seeks fun loving guy with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346537

**YOUNG** black female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382706

**SEALED** with a kiss, 37yr old single mum, blonde hair, blue eyes, curvy, likes sunshine, travel, looking for Knight in shining armour, to make me laugh and spoil me. Folkestone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355543

**PRETTY** black lady, 39, 36G bust, 5ft 3ins, likes reading, cinema, meals out, nature, travel, theatre, seeks tall, slim, professional white male, 35-50 who is honest, genuine, loving, funny and spiritual. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355311

**CRYSTAL** 5ft 6ins, long dark hair, hazel eyes, olive skin, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383374

**SUZANNE** 35, beautiful blonde, seeks discreet male for chats and a relaxing glass of wine anytime. ACA, status unimportant. City area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342527

**DEBBIE** mid 50's, attractive, likes dancing, music, cinema, theatre, seeks male for companionship. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351419

**MATCH** for a Leo. Tall blonde, early 60's, varied interests, likes music, travel, seeks N/S, caring male with GSOH. Ramsgate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352627

**PATRICIA** outgoing, confident, feminine, warm, friendly, smart, good company, attractive, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347215

**BEAUTIFUL** slim, babe, 22, seeks older, generous guy 65 plus who knows how to pamper. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348545

**ATTRACTIVE** outgoing 64yr old lady, seeks genuine, retired, solvent, professional male for friendship. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351929

**42YR** old female, likes music, dancing, writing, astrology, cats, seeks male with GSOH and similar age. Medway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351577

**SINGLE** mum, 39, likes most things, seeks male with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349999

**ADORABLE** beauty curvy, caring, down to earth, trained lawyer, seeks good man for friendship, companionship, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351337

**COME** live with me. Medic, petite, stunning, long hair, seeks very rich, tactile, generous gent. I will care for you forever. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351333

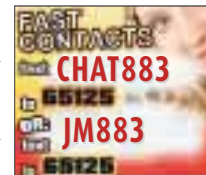
**PENNY** slim, sporty, attractive, excellent company, enjoys the outdoors, cycling, walks, sailing, theatre, travel, seeks intelligent, like-minded gent for friendship, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351273

**ANNA** 62, seeks guy, 59-65 with an interest in the simple things in life for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346707

**62YR** old female, 5ft 4ins, blonde hair, green eyes, medium build, likes walks, keep fit, dancing, gardening, cooking, seeks male, 59-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346705

**PETITE** female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613

**JACKIE** homely, 52, seeks genuine, homely male, 50-65 for caring, sharing and spoiling. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350005



**LADY** seeks N/S, clean shaven male to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty, attractive, slimish, curvy lady of 69 who has not yet joined the wrinkles. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349757

**WORLD** traveller, fit, young minded female, enjoys life, seeks special interesting male, 60's for genuine relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349053

**KAREN** 34, sexy leggy brunette who knows there's more to life than just work! WLTm confident professional male for time off meets in London and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342525

**DAISY** sexy, voluptuous, leggy, blonde, seeks male, 76 plus who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348889

**DOROTHY** 70's, 5ft, fair hair, likes coast, Chinese food, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342451

**ELSIE** 5ft 8ins, 70's, OHAC, N/S, likes pub lunches, walks, seeks gent for company, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348425

**JO** tall, blonde, blue eyes, sexy figure, seeks male for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347421

**ATTRACTIVE** slim, easygoing, lady, 30's, likes travel, nights in, seeks genuine, solvent white male, 36-48 for no strings relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346955

**65YR** old female, 5ft 2ins, likes golf, reading, garden, holidays, seeks guy to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340495

**NATALIA** attractive, brunette, brown eyes, 40's, N/S, slim, fit, friendly, seeks sincere, N/S, solvent male for love and relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344393

**STRAIGHT** female, 60-75 seeking male companionship, no complications for fun and socialising, gay man welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341379

**PROFESSIONAL** attractive, friendly, black British female, mid 40's, size 10-12 likes socialising, seeks sincere male of any nationality for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341125

**TRACEY** 45, sexy Scorpio, tattooed, petite, affectionate, likes music, comedy, cinema, seeks tall, medium build, tattooed, easygoing male, 45-48 with GSOH. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341045

**EMMA** 31, dark hair, brown eyes, attractive, outgoing, likes bands, cinema, meals out, seeks good looking male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337213

**KIND** affectionate male, seeks likeminded lady. Tonbridge/Sevenoaks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383518

**JOHN** 57, 5ft 11ins, medium build, easygoing, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383498

**MALE** seeks female, 62-65 for friendship, maybe more. Herne Bay. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383474

**TALL** attractive white male, 48, considerate, easygoing, likes arts, theatre, Oriental culture, seeks female of any age with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356719

**WHITE** guy 50's, seeks black/Asian/Oriental lady for friendship, maybe more. Medway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356689

**ALAN** young 46, attractive, green eyes, brown hair, 6ft, medium build, white, fun, loyal, N/S, seeks female for friendship/romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356671

**RICHARD** dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, easygoing, loving, caring, likes holidays, theatre, countryside, cinema, historic buildings, music, walks, seeks female 36-56 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356389

**62YR** old male, 6ft 1ins, medium build, brown hair/eyes, seeks female, 62-65 for friendship, maybe more. Herne Bay. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356253

**GENUINE** white male, GSOH, seeks attractive, curvy, black female, 33-43 with strong personality and in control of life for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356215

**GLADYS** sensual, loving, short hair, likes cooking, seeks Christian gent with no ties for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340025

**WANTED** dates & mates! Kim 53, straight, seeks people for socialising, drinking, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340019

**NICK** 43, petite blonde, green eyes, seeks genuine guy for company, fun, friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339115

**ATTRACTIVE** slim single mum, 44, seeks similar tall male, 40-50, caring, loving and loyal, are you? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334393

**LISA** 42, medium build, likes cooking, walks, music, days in/out, WLTm caring, down to earth male, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332817

**JAN** 53, tall, brown hair, likes most things, seeks kind, loving, older, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332497

**5FT** 2ins female, dark hair, medium build, late 40's, GSOH, likes cinema, walks, family life, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350381

**DENISE** young 50, likes cuddles, nights in/out, seeks male, 37-47 for LTR. Erith. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382864

**DOWN** to earth and well presented, likes to wine and dine, show a genuine lady a good time, wants New Year to get off to a good start, meet that someone to take my heart! LTR in Ashford area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351717

**MIKE** 6ft 2ins, grey hair, builder, enjoys life, likes walks, seaside, beaches, cinema, nights in, seeks honest, caring female for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356081

**PETER** 57, blue eyes, full head of hair, likes sport, meals out, drinks, seeks nice, down to earth female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356067

**YOUTHFUL** 67yr old male, likes cerc dancing, seeks youthful partner, 45-65 for fun, laughter and friendship. Dartford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351553

**STRIKINGLY** attractive, tall, black man, London born, 45, very well dressed, athletic, seeks faithful, adventurous, truthful woman for unforgettable adventures. Am I asking too much? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350581

**RICHARD** 49, 6ft, slim, professional, GSOH, tactile, affectionate, likes most things, seeks slim, affectionate female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349519

**PAUL** 48, slim, 6ft, seeks caring female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348705

**GENUINE** male, 47, looks 37, likes shopping, sun bathing, travel, seeks female for platonic friendship only. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348639

**AFFECTIONATE** white male, 61, 5ft 7ins, medium build, N/S, caring interests, seeks caring black/Oriental female with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347933

**SHY** affectionate male, seeks 18-30yr old chubby, introverted girl for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383392

**NICK** 50's, 5ft 10ins, slim, fair hair, blue eyes, widow, loving, considerate, likes travel, meals out, socialising, culture, classic cars, boating, cycling, walks, seeks female up to 58. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338657

**ANDY** fun guy, seeks attractive, assertive, open minded female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333965

**LOVING** male, 50, younger looks, slim, toned, seeks caring, slim female for romance and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355611

**MALE** seeks trustworthy female for friendship and serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355739

**ATTRACTIVE** blond, blue eyed male, 47, HIV positive, genuine, sincere, GSOH, seeks warm, sincere female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355731

**DEREK** retired, lonely, seeks retired lady for company, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355717

**ANDY** funny, seeks likeminded female, 18-35. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355613

**WHITE** male, 63, blue eyes, active, N/S, seeks loving, caring, genuine female, 50-60, any nationality for TLC. Herne Bay. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355133

**YOUNG** looking 57yr old male, seeks petite, red headed female with lovely green eyes, 38-52 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383182

**TRY** me! 56yr old male, down to earth, happy go lucky, likes salsa, ice skating, cinema, meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Sittingbourne. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354999

**TOY** boy 20's, seeks Mrs Claus for a fantastic Christmas full of lust and passion. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354925

**MALE** likes most things, lonely, seeks caring female to put the sparkle back into life. Canterbury. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354385

**52YR** old businessman, seeks female to share good and bad times. Herne Bay. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354891

**YOUNG** good looking, medium build male, mid 30's, seeks mature, older female for fun and passionate evenings in this cold weather. London/Herts. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354877

**RICHARD** 46, likes holidays, theatre, historic buildings, cinema, music, seeks female, 37-57 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355867

**WHITE** male, 52, likes cinema, holidays, weekends away, seeks sincere, genuine, black lady, 35 plus for serious relationship. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354543

**RAMSGATE** male, 5ft 5ins, young 60's, caring, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim-medium build, attractive soul mate for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355743

**SINGLE** professional male, N/S, attractive, 5ft 7ins, medium build, vegetarian, 50, young outlook, seeks white female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354781

**ATTRACTIVE** blond, blue eyed male, 47, HIV positive, genuine, sincere, GSOH, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, female. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354749

**YOUNG** looking 60yr old guy, 5ft 7ins, brown hair/eyes, likes lunches out, seeks slim-medium build female for friendship only. Crawley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354713

**SIMON** tall, well built, good looking, fun, seeks genuine, Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383150

**ATTRACTIVE** male, 42, OHAC, likes good things in life, seeks happy, fun loving lady. Single mum welcome. Medway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383136

**SINGLE** professional male, N/S, attractive, 5ft 7ins, medium build, vegetarian, 50, young outlook, seeks white female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354781

**ATTRACTIVE** blond, blue eyed male, 47, HIV positive, genuine, sincere, GSOH, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, female. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354749

**YOUNG** looking 60yr old guy, 5ft 7ins, brown hair/eyes, likes lunches out, seeks slim-medium build female for friendship only. Crawley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354713

**32YR** old male, bi-curious, likes wine, cinema, camping, seeks male, 25-35 for loving ad maybe more. Could you be my Mr Right. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356183

**SINGLE** unassertive male, mid 40's, seeks assertive male of any age for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356269

**ATTRACTIVE** non scene gay hunk, late 20's, seeks older, solvent gent, 65 plus for mutual fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348543

**KEVIN** 34, 6ft 2ins, blond hair, medium build, toned, young boyish good looks likes nights out, sports, holidays, seeks similar male, any age for adventurous fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355984

**BI** guy 37, seeks couple/bi guy for fun times. Canterbury. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383290

**52YR** old businessman, seeks female to share good and bad times. Herne Bay. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354891

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# Casting the net wide in search for stage talent



HEAD OVER HEELS: West End opportunity beckons

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

**TALENTED** teenagers are being sought for leading roles in two hit musicals – with the chance to perform in the West End of London.

Thanet-based Stagedoor Theatre Company is inviting anyone aged between 10 and 19 to audition for its next two shows: *Aladdin*, and *Billy Elliot – The Musical*.

In April, the Granville Theatre in Ramsgate will be transported to Agrabah, the city of enchantment, to play host to Disney's *Aladdin*.

The theatre company is looking for performers for the lead roles, chorus, dancers and singers.

Following last year's hugely successful production of *Billy Elliot – The Musical*, the company is teaming up with the West End's Billy Youth Theatre for a second year to stage a bigger and bolder performance, this time seeking between 60 and 100 cast members from Canterbury, Dover, Deal, Folkestone and Thanet to perform in a leading Kent theatre in July,



AUDITIONS: Cast members are being sought for productions of *Billy Elliot – The Musical*, above, and *Aladdin*

probably Margate Winter Gardens. The group, competing against performers from across the UK, will then submit a recording of the show to the resident creative team for the West End production and, if selected, the show will perform in a larger regional theatre that same month.

The best productions will also be showcased at the Victoria Palace Theatre in London as part of the Billy Youth Theatre West End gala.

Last year the Thanet production opened in the Granville and performed in the regional

finals at the Swan Theatre, High Wycombe. Auditions for both shows will be held in Dover, Thanet and Canterbury during the week commencing on Monday.

Anyone interested in attending can email [stagedoor\\_enquiries@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stagedoor_enquiries@hotmail.co.uk) for an application pack. Stagedoor Theatre Company has run weekly classes in drama, dancing and singing in Margate and Broadstairs since 2007.

More details will be published soon on the website [www.stagedoor-theatrecompany.com](http://www.stagedoor-theatrecompany.com).

## Call for re-think on mobility cash cuts

THE Martha Trust in Deal is calling on Government to scrap plans to axe the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance for care home residents.

The charity has written to Maria Miller MP, Minister for Disabled People at the Department for Work and Pensions, and to Paul Burstow MP, Minister of State for Care Services, to highlight the concerns.

Chief executive Graham Simmons said: "The Government argues that people's travel is covered in their care package but this is not always the case."

"Many local authorities require service users to use their mobility component to fund their travel, and the overall fee is reduced accordingly."

## Deadline looms for tax credit claims

HUNDREDS of self-employed tax credit claimants are being reminded to report their income or face the consequences.

The 1,200 claimants in Dover are being urged by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to report their total income for the 2009/10 financial year by Monday, January 31.

Failing to provide correct details could lead to overpayment, while deliberate fraudulent information could lead to a criminal prosecution and imprisonment.

As part of a wider Government crackdown, HMRC and the Department for Work and Pensions published a strategy last month designed to tackle errors and fraud in benefits and tax credits. For details, visit [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk).

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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### CAROLINE HALLETT



**Q** Can you tell us a little about yourself?

**A** I am regional coordinator for the Food For Life Partnership. I live in Folkestone but work throughout the South East so see a lot of the M20 and the M25. I am married with two grown-up children.

**Q** What is Food For Life and how did you get involved?

**A** The Food For Life Partnership is a network of schools and communities committed to transforming food culture. We are revolutionising school meals, reconnecting young people with farms and inspiring families and communities to cook and grow food. The partnership brings together four charities: the Soil Association, Focus On Food, Health Education Trust and Garden Organic. It empowers schools, teachers, caterers, food-producers, pupils and health professionals to create a better food culture for young people across England. This means a school-meals service serving healthy and sustainable food, practical food education and engaged pupils.

**Q** What are the advantages of growing your own?

**A** We encourage people to reconnect with food by growing organic or buying from local farmers and suppliers. Organic food is grown without the use of man-made chemicals. The same is true for organic meat. One of

the first things people notice when switching to organic is the taste, which is much better.

The most obvious advantage is safety. Pesticides and other chemicals are sprayed on inorganic food. Many fungicides and insecticides are potentially carcinogenic. With organic, the soil is not contaminated.

**Q** You are reaching out to schools to spread the message

**A** We have more than 400 schools across the South East enrolled in the programme. These are setting up gardens, getting young people cooking and growing, and visiting farms and businesses to understand more about food and where it comes from. We offer an award scheme and have gold-, silver- and bronze-award-winning schools.

**Q** Will the trend towards carbon reduction aid your cause?

**A** Absolutely. When we think about carbon footprints we tend to concentrate on how much energy we use directly, in our homes or travelling. This makes up our primary footprint, but environmental impact doesn't stop there. Food miles and packaging produce a secondary footprint.

Over-packaged items and food brought over large distances all add to our carbon contribution. Saving energy – and lowering emissions – isn't only about changing light-bulbs and switching off appliances.

**Q** Are supermarkets a help or hindrance to local produce?

**A** Large supermarkets don't supply schools with raw ingredients. We have had a positive response to our campaign from school-meals caterers who are applying for our Catering Mark and using 50 per cent locally-sourced ingredients. We encourage parents to use local suppliers and organic-veg-box schemes, but all the large supermarkets carry organic ranges now.

**Q** What is the future for food distribution and choice?

**A** The way food is distributed nationally has production, consumption and trading practices that destroy the environment, harm animals and are deeply unjust. I would like a return to local-food-hubs, with enough produced locally for all. It is madness to have only three or four large 'food factories' for staples.

**Q** Where can people find out more?

**A** Check out [www.foodforlife.org.uk](http://www.foodforlife.org.uk), or email me via [chalet@soilassociation.org.uk](mailto:chalet@soilassociation.org.uk).

**Q** What do you like to do in your spare time?

**A** I have a variety of hobbies, including arts and crafts, cooking and walking. I love entertaining and relaxing with friends.

**Q & A**

The Kent coordinator of the Food For Life Partnership speaks to **James Alexandre** about transforming school meals, reducing carbon miles and what organic produce means for the future of our food supplies

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# your letters



LETTERS: Please send your letters to: The editor, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS



EMAIL: Email your letters to the editor, Dave Mairs: dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk

## YOUR LETTERS

### Shocking amount of litter at the roadside

Every day I drive along Stone Street, through the North Downs, to go to work in Canterbury.

Travelling through the Shepway stretch is like going through a rubbish tip – the amount of filth and litter shames us all.

Once I get to the Canterbury section, however, things get much better. There are Canterbury City Council workers out clearing litter from the side of the road.

Litter is of course the fault of the people who drop it, but we do pay our local authorities an awful lot of money to clear it up. Same old Shepway – dirty, filthy, a mess.

Nick Hill, Folkestone

### Museum widow has earned our respect

Mike Eddy is perfectly correct in stating that the trustees of Deal Maritime Museum are duty-bound to protect "the museum, its collections, its visitors and its volunteers" (letters, December 15).

The dispute, of course, is who the museum needs to be protected from. Hardly necessary, one would think, to barricade an octogenarian widow into her neighbouring home.

Kathleen Thompson has formerly done so much for our town, including assisting in her beloved museum, that she deserves respect from the trustees. It is also ridiculous for Cllr Eddy to state in a previous letter that she has made her opinions "perfectly clear".

This whole situation has now clouded her mind, making it necessary for her family and friends to take her into care. This is why a large proportion of the town is incensed by the trustees' behaviour.

SG Holyoake, Deal

### Crucial input helping reach right decision

On behalf of Dover Town Council I am writing to thank all Doverians who took part in our recent public consultation.

In this, the biggest consultation ever undertaken by the town council, voter empowerment counts concerning decision-making.

Given the economic situation and the need for prudent practice, councillors felt it was only right that the public be consulted concerning future expenditure. Accordingly, every single view and every comment has been taken into account.

As ever within the democratic process, we would have wished for even more participation.

However, it is clear that the analysis of returns coincides with opinions that councillors had formed, after discussions with organisations and the public in their own words.

High among respondents' priorities were two major issues being

## your blogger

Ian MacMillan hankers after Britain's halcyon days – before Blair, Thatcher and greedy bankers



BACK in the late Fifties my namesake Harold coined the phrase "You've never had it so good" and, in retrospect, how right he was.

Yes, he was a public-school educated Tory patrician, but nevertheless would have struggled to gain acceptance by Blair, Mandelson and so-called New Labour with their penchant for privatisation, PFI (that went well didn't it?) and Mandy being "intensely relaxed" about people becoming filthy rich.

"Selling off the family silver" was how he described Maggie Thatcher's privatisations of the 1980s.

Only those of my generation will remember the halcyon days when British Rail ran the railways, and the so-called utilities were run by British Gas, Seaboard and the GPO.

And there was a mining industry with vibrant communities where the coal was dug out of the ground.

I have a notice on my door addressed to energy salesmen. Two words – the second is 'off'. Of course we grumbled about British Rail, but, whatever its faults, it wasn't simply a vehicle to rip off the consumer to make profits for shareholders and directors.

I am no xenophobe, but most utilities now have foreign owners, as indeed do football clubs and most multinationals. When I went to school, I was told it was good that Britain had lots of foreign investments and the dividends were flooding into this country.

Now, if a Korean or Indian company buys a firm

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, Dave Mairs, on 01303 817022 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk).

guaranteed – provision of public conveniences and the need for the continuation of the visitor information centre.

As Dover District Council cuts its own costs, the burden for these services could fall largely on the town council. Therefore it was crucial we were aware this was what the public wanted.

After considerable investigation, consultation and many meetings, I am pleased to report the town council will be supporting Dover District Council in its decision to move the Visitor Information Centre into an area within Dover Museum, believing that this, in turn, will also help museum visitor numbers.

Concerning the provision of public toilets, this is a contentious and expensive subject.

However, thanks to respondents' wishes, the town council will be finalising an effective solution, in conjunction with the district council, to ensure public toilet provision continues in Dover.

I will supply more information when this is available. Despite these considerable increases in the town council's financial responsibilities, I am pleased to confirm the council's precept requirement for next year is being increased by only two per cent.

This means we will have to increase efficiency and cut elsewhere. However, as two per cent represents an increase on a band D property of 2.5p per week, we feel that we have squared the circle concerning ratepayers' wishes. We

here, that's good as well. Call me an idiot, but I can't work that one out.

When I left school in 1958, having no vocation, I became a bank clerk and joined the Young Socialists. There was no unemployment then.

Those who went to the village secondary school either became a nurse at the local mental hospital or worked at the paper mill, also in the village.

I was vice-president of Folkestone Young Socialists. My friend, also a clerk, was the president. In truth there were only about five of us, but we thought "from each according to his ability and to each according to his need" wasn't a bad mantra to live by, especially for those unable to distinguish between religion and superstition.

And there was always hope, until the cuckoo Blair landed in the nest along with his New Labour cronies.

Now white-collar crooks rule town halls, hospitals and so on, eager to hang on to obscene salaries in spite of the dire economic times we live in.

When I worked in banking, three per cent over base was a punitive rate. Now banks charge 19 per cent over base and employ fat-cat lawyers to successfully defend their theft from clients' accounts by way of charges – in spite of OFT recommendations.

Nearing the end of my life, if I had no children and grandchildren, I'd bid it – life, I mean – a cheery wave as I say goodbye.

Will new leader Ed Miliband eventually breathe life into a moribund Labour Party? I hope so.

trust you feel this is a good use of the town's precept. May I wish you all the best for the new year.

Cllr Susan Jones, Town Mayor of Dover

### Non-stop fight with relentless disease

Major steps in transforming the lives of people with multiple sclerosis are being made by researchers just as an appeal launched to support the work has topped £100,000.

The 365 Appeal, launched by MS Research, enables supporters to 'sponsor MS Research for a day'.

There are 100,000 people diagnosed with MS in the UK and they have to cope with MS 365 days a year, which is why MS Research feels the fight to help them should be equally relentless.

Researchers are determined to help them by finding practical answers to some of their problems and by seeking a better understanding of MS.

In 2010, the appeal by Bristol-based MS Research funded dedicated teams looking at the causes of tremor and ataxia, experienced by many MS patients.

The work not only looks at the causes but at ways to mitigate the effects that can dominate the lives of many MS patients.

Once diagnosed, people with MS face a daily battle against symptoms such as muscle weakness and painful spasms, mobility loss, fatigue, tremor, bladder problems and visual impairment.

Almost everyone who has MS is different but they face such difficulties every day and that is why the 365 Appeal was started to ensure funds come in every day to counter the disease. It is fantastic to have reached our first £100,000 and we appreciate all the work people have done to raise those funds.

Real progress is being made on so many levels now with MS and the aim in 2011 is to raise another £250,000 through this appeal so more research can be funded.

There are researchers looking at stem cells to find ways to protect the nerves and to restore nerve function, while others are seeking the root cause of MS and there are others looking at how we might better treat common symptoms, halt their progress and provide support and help to those who have been diagnosed.

In the last year we set up a new treatment clinic to provide electrical muscle stimulators to help people walk for longer and there has been fantastic progress in tremor research in the last year.

We all feel we are getting close to making a significant breakthrough.

MS Research has supported work to enable the introduction of a muscle stimulator. This fits around the leg and provides small electrical impulses that stimulate muscle movement to lift the foot clear of the ground. Use of this device has a dramatic effect, restoring the ability to walk almost normally.

The development of technically-advanced assistive devices to treat MS symptoms is one key aim of MS

Research. The charity is also funding work to further the understanding of tremor, and to develop mechanisms to control arm movement with advanced orthotics and miniature robotics.

This is a neglected area of disability, and one where few groups conduct research. It will also help with the treatment of other neurological conditions where tremor is encountered.

The research is not just laboratory-based efforts to find a cure but working with MS patients to find practical answers to some of the problems they face such as fatigue, incontinence and deteriorating mobility.

Our primary aim is to fund research that will restore functions and capabilities lost as a result of the disease and to contribute to its eventual cure.

The 365 Appeal is looking for groups to raise £500, and for individuals to raise at least £250 each.

A starter kit to help anyone with a fund-raising idea can be found at [www.ms-research.org.uk](http://www.ms-research.org.uk); or from [info@ms-research.org.uk](mailto:info@ms-research.org.uk); or by writing to: MS Research, Trym Lodge, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS9 3HQ.

Kayleigh Sydenham, MS Research

### Popular goat gifts make a difference

Oxfam Unwrapped's goats are an extremely effective way to help improve the lives of poor people, using locally sourced, responsibly distributed livestock to make a massive difference in more than 60 countries.

We launched our range in 2004 and the goat gift is a popular choice. For the gift buyer, there's obvious appeal, but for the family that receives the goat, it becomes absolutely central to their lives.

They can not only be used for milk or food but as an asset to trade, giving families access to credit for food during low seasons or an income to send their children to school and then growing their wealth as it produces kids.

At Oxfam we know only too well the impact that the environment has on poor people and are very careful not to upset existing ecological balances.

We don't bring in goats from other areas, we redistribute livestock within villages, so the environmental impact is minimal.

We also assess the potential impact on natural resources by talking to local people who have detailed knowledge of grazing patterns and feeding practices.

Animal welfare is considered every step of the way and our programme guidelines are endorsed by the RSPCA.

We never promote animal husbandry above agriculture. But in some areas it is simply too dry to grow enough crops, so raising livestock is the only option.

Thanks to people's generosity we have raised an incredible £60 million to help thousands of people living in poverty around the world.

Rick Lay, Oxfam Unwrapped campaign manager



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# Massive difference in primary schools' SATS performance

THE latest primary school league tables show a large disparity between the best and the worst performing schools in the Dover District.

At Sibertswold CofE Primary School in Shepherdswell all of the pupils achieved at least a level four in their maths and English SATS exams and it is ranked alongside the best school in the county.

Northbourne CofE and Kingsdown and Ringwould CofE primary schools also fared well, with 94 and 90 per cent, respectively, of their students gaining the level four grades.

Head teacher at Sibertswold, Mrs Bird said: "We do expect our pupils to achieve highly and we look for them to achieve the level fours and work towards obtaining their level fives. The children all work really hard and so do the staff."

"We ensure the learning of the basics is very solid, but we also run a creative curriculum to make the learning fun."

"We have got 100 per cent of level fours for the last three years, but we are always looking to do better."

At the other end of the scale,

Eythorne Elvington Community and Nonington CofE primary school only had half of their students obtaining the SATS level four in maths and English, while St Mary's CofE Primary School only had 46 per cent of its children reaching the national benchmark.

## Language barrier

The head teacher at St Mary's said this is largely down to a high number of students who do not have English as their first language.

Mrs Helen D'cruz said: "We have a

very high level who do not have English as their first language and they will find it difficult to achieve to the same standard in tests compared to children who have English as their first language."

"The children make good progress through the school and Ofsted do recognise the good work we do."

"This year was just a blip and we normally perform much higher, but this may be down to the high number of pupils we had joining us late at eight or nine years old who don't speak English as the first language."

"These pupils will always struggle to match pupils who have been here longer, or who are native speakers."

The national average for school pupils achieving the level four in their maths and English SATS exams was 73 per cent, while the county average was slightly below this at 70 per cent.

In the district, only three schools boycotted the STAS test for their pupils, and they were, Warden House Primary, Langdon Primary School and Green Park Community Primary School.

# Volunteer farmland surveys show our wildlife is booming

## Mums-to-be are urged to go for flu vaccination

THE Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS is urging pregnant women to have the winter flu jab.

Mothers-to-be are being advised to have the influenza vaccination to help protect themselves and their babies against the risk of complications, as well as those categorised as at risk patients.

The jab is usually offered to people over 65 years old, patients with serious long-term health problems such as heart disease or chronic bronchitis, and frontline health and social care staff.

This year, the injection is being offered to pregnant women as well because it will help protect against the H1N1 strain of the virus (swine flu), which is expected to be the main form of the illness circulating this winter.

Andrew Scott-Clark, deputy director of public health for NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent said: "We strongly urge anyone who is eligible to take advantage of the free seasonal flu jab to protect themselves against the three types of flu in circulation, including swine flu."



### Risk

"With the cold weather here to stay, people with long term conditions such as diabetes or heart conditions must get their vaccine – remember that even if you feel well, you are at increased risk of seasonal flu and the jab is your best protection."

"National influenza surveillance suggests there is the possibility of increasing circulation of flu, so if you are eligible for the seasonal flu vaccine, make sure you take it up and protect yourself."

"The impact of swine flu on pregnant women was so marked that being pregnant effectively puts women in the clinical at risk category even if they are perfectly healthy in every other way."

"We would like to ensure there are no preventable deaths of pregnant women in Kent and Medway this winter."

"National guidance is that the flu jab is safe for mothers-to-be and their unborn babies at every stage of pregnancy."

"It may offer the baby protection for the first four to six months of its life."

"Pregnant women should be offered vaccination against seasonal flu by their GP practice."

"I would urge all pregnant women to ensure they are vaccinated and, if they have not yet heard from their practice, to get in touch to make an appointment."

• For more information, pregnant women should call NHS Direct on 0845 4647, or speak to their GP or their midwife.

A FARMLAND survey has revealed that wildlife is thriving in the rural heartlands.

The RSPB's Volunteer and Farmer Alliance surveys were carried out during the late spring and early summer and the figures show how important the habitats on farms are for Britain's birds.

The free counts, which are completed by volunteers, help farmers to identify birds of conservation concern on their land.

The avian charity will then advise landowners on how to help these species and make the most of their farms for wildlife.

RSPB South East's farmland adviser Bruce Fowkes said: "We've had a great response from farmers in Kent wanting to take part. The Volunteer and Farmer

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

Alliance is all about helping them to help the birds.

"The distribution maps produced from the surveys show where priority species are so that the farmers can put in place targeted conservation measures."

Eleven farms were surveyed in Kent, including one in Dover, covering a total area of 1,001.6 hectares.

In the south east, the most common birds seen during the survey were the chaffinch and the blackbird, which appeared on 97 per cent of farms, the blue tit, which was noted to be on 95 per cent of the locations, and the wren, which was observed on 93 per cent of the farms.

The rarest birds seen during the count included species of conservation concern, such as the corn bunting and the grey partridge, both of which were only seen on 16 per cent of farms.

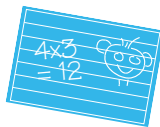
The annual surveys take place between April and July, in the early morning when the birds are most active and there is the best chance of seeing as many as possible.

Work is already being done with farmers in Kent to help benefit some of the birds seeing the greatest decline.

The data collected from the surveys will add to the understanding of how these birds are doing and enable further conservation action to be taken.

Any farmers or volunteers who would like to participate can get more information by calling 01273 763616.





## BREAK TIME

### Colourful Christmas

PUPILS at Dover College decided on a festive theme to raise money for charity.

The infant and junior school council came up with the idea of a day to collect funds for the college's annual charity, Pegasus Playscheme.

They decided wearing red and green, plus festive hats, would get staff and pupils in the mood for Christmas and raise money. Pegasus provides a three-week summer programme for children with disabilities and learning difficulties.

A total of £90 was raised, to be added to more than £7,000 collected from other events. Headteacher Stephen Jones said: "I'm proud of pupils on the school council for taking their responsibilities seriously."

"It's very generous of them to think of others who are less fortunate."



**GENEROSITY:**  
College pupils

### Tots entertainment



LOTS 4 Tots pre-school got into the festive spirit with a Christmas party.

Youngsters, above, arrived in fancy dress at the nursery in Mill Hill, Deal.

In the morning, children made decorations and calendars, before enjoying party songs and games. The celebrations were rounded off with dinner and a visit from Father Christmas.

Contact Lots 4 Tots on 07815 564393.

# On-site farm lessons are bringing home the bacon



**MEAT THE WINNERS:** Brockhill Farm sausage logo designers Tiffany and Amy with the final product

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

A NEW curriculum at Brockhill Park Performing Arts School will see its on-site farm integrated into lessons across two year groups.

The Great Outdoors, or GO for short, will see every year seven and eight pupil have a lesson on the farm each week, learning where their food comes from and developing personal, learning and thinking skills.

GO leader Donna Hawkes said: "This is a special development and we don't know of anywhere else that is developing their rural dimension specialism in the same way."

"This course doesn't lead to a specific qualification but, perhaps more importantly, it does help students develop research skills, learn how to work in a team and independently, and reflect on their learning."

"They also have the opportunity to work on the farm – we have a lot of fun, too."

Year seven students have just completed their first project, in which they learned about food production, carbon footprints, modern-day consumers and linking it all to the pig-breeding programme at Brockhill.

They designed a logo for Brockhill's sausages and promoted their sale – with the meat selling out in just 45 minutes.

Year seven GO teacher Ian Langley said: "We take pride in the meat our farm produces and were fortunate enough to take our logo prize-winners to see the sausages being made."

"Our students understand about good animal welfare and husbandry producing a quality product."

**SEND your schools news and pictures to [dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk). You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk).**

## developing confidence and individual talents

**Frustrated to know that your child could succeed but is making slow progress?**

**Is it because of going unnoticed in a large school or a large class size?**

**Is your child lacking the confidence to flourish?**

At Dover College, we are as keen as any other school to cater for the most able pupils and do it well. However, our recent inspection highlighted our great ability as a school to enable our more average pupils to achieve far better than their potential suggested on entry. By offering boys and girls timely affirmation and appropriate challenges in a caring environment, many of them surprise their parents and, more importantly, themselves with their achievements.

**Dover College welcomes pupils at any time of the year if there is a place available.**

**From: Pre-Reception class for 3 year olds to A Levels**

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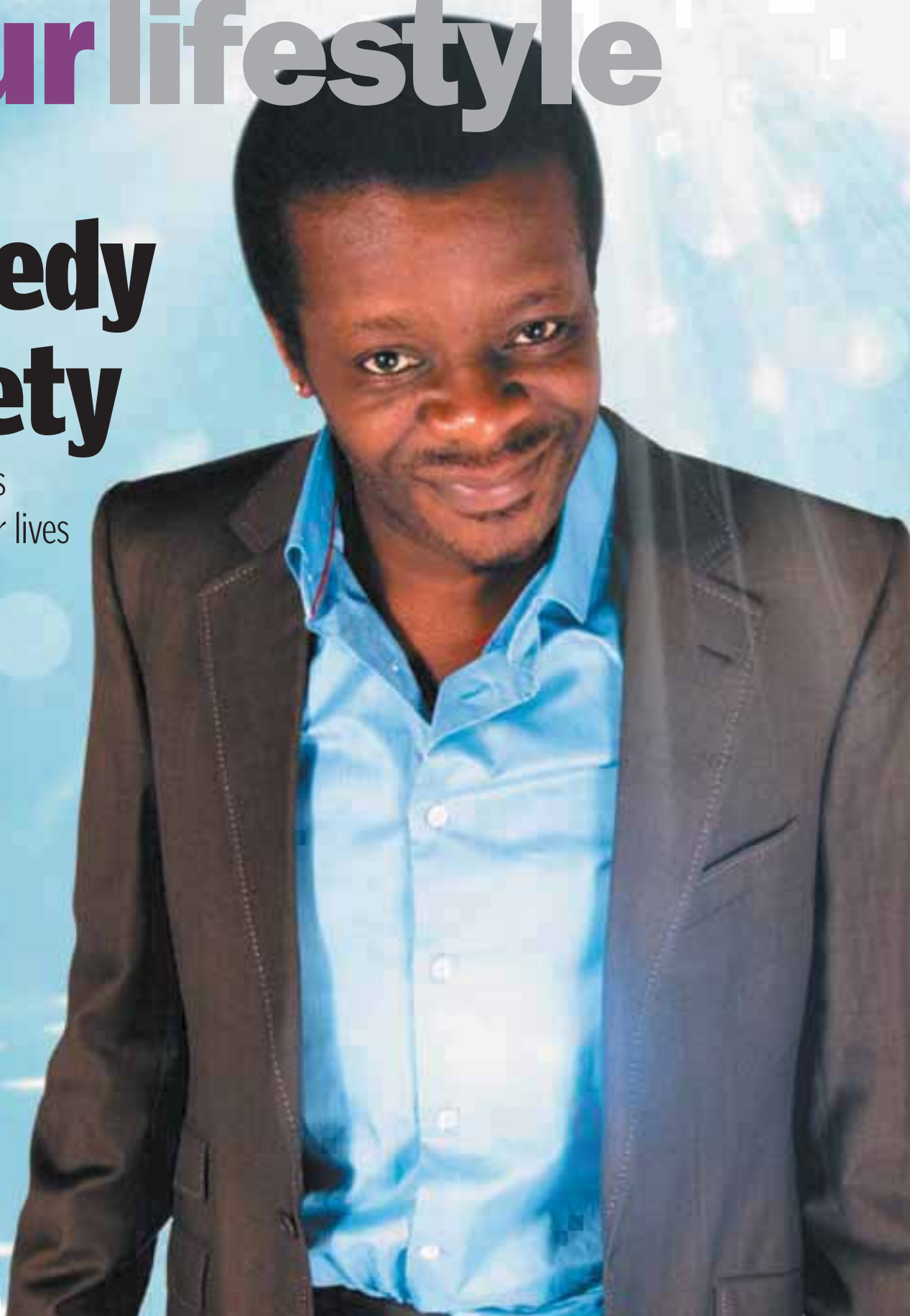
Page 29



# your lifestyle

## Comedy variety

Stephen K Amos  
brightens up our lives  
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## DAY & NIGHT

### Beautiful ballet show

CINDERELLA by Ballet Theatre UK is at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, on Saturday, January 29, at 7.30pm.

The rags-to-riches story features Prokofiev's uplifting score together with sumptuous costumes. The sets conjure up a magical fantasy world in this enchanting production.

Tickets are £18, concessions £15. To book call 01622 758611 or visit [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk).

### The thrill of the circus

FROM January 11 to 15, the big top of Moscow State Circus will arrive at the Churchill Theatre.

Performers are bringing the sensational new show *Legenda* to Bromley for the first time. It is sure to thrill, astound and shock audiences of all ages with its blend of classical and contemporary circus.

Presenting a huge cast of Russia's greatest circus artistes, the Moscow State Circus is bursting with incredible human feats and death-defying acts, with state of the art special effects and performers who push the boundaries of physical ingenuity.

But tickets by calling 08448 717620, or at [www.ambassadorstickets.com/bromley](http://www.ambassadorstickets.com/bromley).

### Laughter with Marlon

STAND-up comedian Marlon Davis will be making audiences laugh at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone on Wednesday, February 2.

The young comedian, improviser, actor and presenter bursts on to the stage like a breath of fresh air, with an impish grin, boyish enthusiasm and an effortlessly open, confident style.

He appeared in *Brown-Eyed Boy* on MTV and won the FHM Search For A Stand-Up Hero competition in 2009.

Tickets are £10. Over 18s only.

See [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk) or call 01622 758611 to book.

### Tune in to war time

ISLA St Clair comes to the Horsebridge centre in Whitstable on Friday, at 7.30pm.

The Eyes Front show is an exciting combination of live performance and film about the effect of music in wartime with the singer and broadcaster.

Isla St Clair, will present and perform a selection of popular songs and tell the stories behind them.

Visit [www.islastclair.com](http://www.islastclair.com) for details.

Tickets are £10 or £9 concessions from the box office on 01227 281174.

### Tony shares his politics

VETERAN parliamentarian Tony Benn comes to the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury for one of his popular speaking dates.

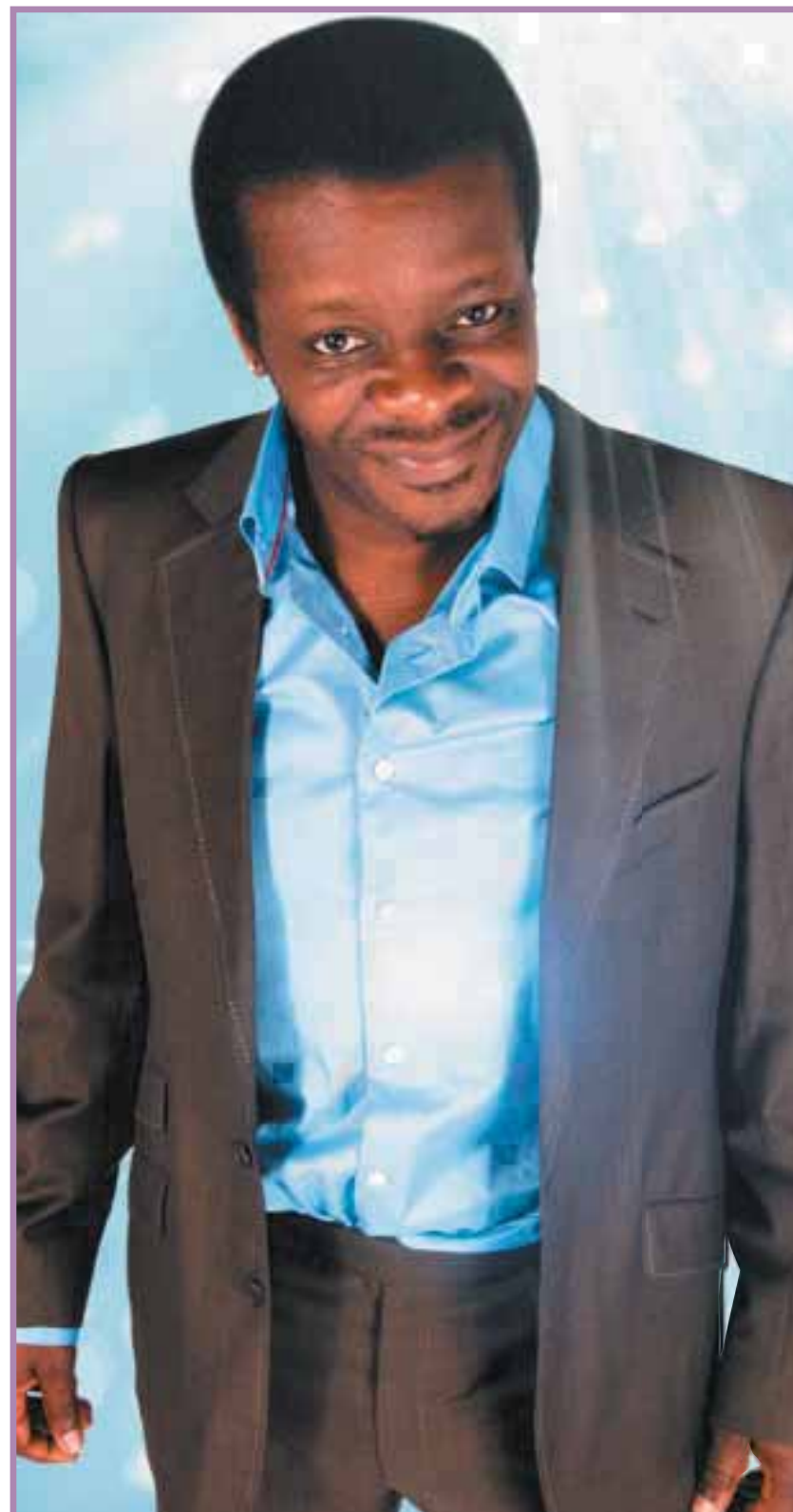
An Evening with Tony Benn, on Friday, January 21, will see the lauded left winger recall many anecdotes from his distinguished career.

He'll talk about his life in politics and what he thinks about the changes in the Labour party.

Expect an evening of frank responses and entertaining political anecdotes in the long awaited sequel to his original legendary theatre tour.

For tickets (£18) call 01227 769075 or visit [www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian](http://www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian).

# Laughter is the best medicine



## STEPHEN K AMOS

Tuesday, January 18  
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



STEPHEN K Amos is experiencing the biggest boom of his career.

The comedian has recently been starring in his own self-titled TV show on BBC Two and is seen as one of the brightest new stars in the comedy firmament.

And now he's bringing his *The Best Medicine* show to Canterbury.

"I'm feeling good about life right now," he said. "I was really flattered that the BBC saw fit to give me the chance to do my own show, in this day and age if you are a comic on TV you don't always get that platform to show all the different things you can do, so I saw it as a real great opportunity to show a bit more of myself."

The Stephen K Amos show went out on BBC Two on Friday nights at 10pm, but the series ended in the run up to Christmas.

Stephen said of what he wanted to achieve with it: "I kind of hark back to the old style of Dave Allen with the feel of the show. It's quite gentle and I embrace the variety nature of shows like that as I didn't think that kind of thing was happening as much on TV anymore, so to help to try and revive it is something that it's great to be involved with."

"I didn't want to do another bog-standard stand-up show. With that in mind we threw in some sketches, some bits with the audience and then some musical acts that you might not see on things like Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow. I just wanted to throw some more in there to mix it up a bit."

Stephen turned to comedy 15 years ago but never thought he'd make a career out of it.

He said: "I was studying law at the time but decided I'd try my hand at stand-up and simply haven't stopped. It was never part of my plan to live this life. I wanted to be a lawyer and see where that took me."

"I'd never tried stand-up before, or any comedy and never been to a comedy club, so to me it was like a totally new medium."

"I just took the attitude from the start that it was all about having fun on stage and not being too fearful of it."

"That was probably helped initially by the fact that at the early shows a lot of my friends turned up. They found me funny anyway, but they obviously couldn't be there every time I had a show and so they started to stop coming. But the laughs continued and I decided to keep it going."

"People always say to me it must be the most petrifying thing to do, but the worst that can happen is that people don't laugh. It might be uncomfortable for a while but you're not going to die. There's usually a lot of goodwill in audiences too. Most people go to comedy nights to laugh, they want to laugh."

Stephen promises that his touring show is very different to his TV work.

"This is live, unedited and in the moment. I try and keep it as fresh as possible. If something that is new material to me feels right I will do it and try it out. I try not to stick too rigidly to any script."

Stephen begins his tour in mid-January and says that he believes comedy is having a real renaissance at the moment.

"It's absolutely going through a boom time. That's got to be a good thing. I think we've all had enough of celebrity chefs. There was a time when you couldn't turn on the TV without seeing one, but that seems to have died off a little."

"People want to have a laugh when they get home. There are other art forms and stand-up comedy really is one worth putting on TV."

• For tickets (£13 each) to see Stephen in Canterbury, Book at [www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian](http://www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian) or call 01227 769075.





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## THE FUNNY SIDE COMEDY CLUB

Wednesday, January 26, Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



FUNNY Side Comedy Club nights take place once a month on Wednesdays in the theatre building on the University of Kent campus.

Three top acts, usually Comedy Store regulars, are introduced by our compere in the comfortable surroundings of the Cafe Bar.

This month Kevin Precious introduces vein popping Mark Walker; endearing Diane Morgan; and loveable Eddy Brimson, pictured.

Mark Walker has fronted a rock band and worked as a pebble dasher. He now finds himself living in London and working the comedy circuit.

He is vocally and physically

dynamic with his performance, in which he combines life with surrealism to become a living embodiment of his daydreams.

Diane Morgan, a former actress, is one half of acclaimed comedy sketch duo Two Episodes of Mash and has won numerous awards and praise.

Eddy Brimson is a familiar face on the UK comedy circuit and is a regular at such prestigious venues as Jongleurs, Banana Cabaret, Belfast Empire and London's notorious Up the Creek.

Advance tickets are £8, or you can pay £10 on the door on the night. Encore Gulbenkian members and student advance tickets are £6, or £8 on the door.



## PUNT AND DENNIS



Saturday, January 15 and Thursday, January 20, Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

GOOD friends and important fixtures on the British comedy scene for decades, it's been three years since Punt and Dennis last toured the UK.

There is, therefore, no excuse for not writing a brand-new show and getting out on the road... so they have.

Hugh Dennis has catapulted in popularity following his role in the award-winning Outnumbered, as the obnoxious GP Piers Crispin in My Hero, and with his quick-witted quips as a regular panellist on Mock the Week, and Steve Punt has worked just as hard and often.

They've come a long way since being bit part players on Jasper Carrot's show Canned Carrot.

Both have enjoyed continued success in the award-winning and acclaimed BBC Radio 4 programme The Now Show.

Expect ridiculous mimes, great impressions, political satire and maybe the odd nursery rhyme.

Tickets are £18.50 or £16.50 for members of Encore! Gulbenkian. Over 16s only.

Call 01227 769075 or visit [www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian](http://www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian) to book tickets or for further information.

## ALADDIN

Until January 23, various times,  
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



IT MAY seem like a little too late to be thinking about going to see a pantomime, but performers in Folkestone are still very much at it.

The annual Leas Cliff Hall panto, Aladddin, features a brand new set, talented cast and plenty of catchy show tunes that you'll be singing until February half term.

Folkestone's favourite panto stars will take to the stage, Paul Ketley and Neil Hunnisett will have you in stitches with their hilarious antics as Widow Twankey and Wishee Washee, while Natalie Hubbard will keep an eye on proceedings as PC Pongo. The evil Abanazar is played by Bob Osborne so get ready to boo and hiss.

Aladdin himself is played by Callum Erskine who has starred in the Youth Community Theatre Project Productions of Wizard of Oz



and Fame. Ellie Fiore, 17, is Princess Jasmine.

Join Aladdin, Princess Jasmine and of course Wishee Washee and Widow Twankey as they take you

on a magic carpet ride for a spectacular pantomime.

Tickets start at £13 plus booking fee, from [www.leascliffhall.org.uk](http://www.leascliffhall.org.uk) or call 0844 847 1776.



## JIM MULLEN AND HENRY LOWTHER



Thursday, January 20, Tower Theatre, Folkestone

JAZZ AT the Tower presents one of the great duos of British jazz, for a show not to be missed.

Jim Mullen is deemed to be one of the world's foremost jazz guitarists, he will team up with Henry Lowther to recreate their studio recordings.

Mullen began his musical career playing tea chest bass in a skiffle group and soon progressed to guitar.

He was a member of a group with future Average White Band members Malcom Duncan and Roger Ball for a time and in 1975 hooked up with Dick Morrissey, followed by a host of top American artists.

His playing partner during the 60s, Henry Lowther was one of the first musicians on the British jazz scene to experiment with total free improvisation, notably with Jack Bruce, Lyn Dobson and Jon Hiseman.

He played with the original, seminal Mike Westbrook band and even hit the rock scene in the 60s.

Lowther will play the flugelhorn as well as the trumpet and be backed by Alex Keen on double bass and Rod Brown on drums.

Entrance on the evening is £7, call 01303 277175 to book or for more information.

## THANET ON FILM: RAMSGATE SPECIAL



Thursday, January 13, Granville Cinema, Ramsgate

A SPECIAL Ramsgate edition of the phenomenally popular Thanet On Film will get its first screening this week.

The film, which broke box office records when it was screened in Broadstairs last year, is giving Ramsgate the big screen treatment in response to public demand.

Producer Christine Tongue said: "Over the last 12 months, many people from Ramsgate have asked that us to show the film in the town. However, we waited until we had time to put together a special Ramsgate edition.

"The film now includes extra vintage footage from the 1920s, 50s and 70s, as well as more recent times. There are lots of nostalgic shots of the beach, the attractions and the summer crowds. Over all it gives a fascinating impression of how Ramsgate has changed since its holiday heyday."

A special feature of the film is an item on Ramsgate seafront and the old Pleasurama site, which has been derelict for a decade.

Christine said: "The film tells the long saga of big promises and prolonged dereliction which has bedevilled Ramsgate seafront for so many years now."

Booking is advisable on 01843 591750.





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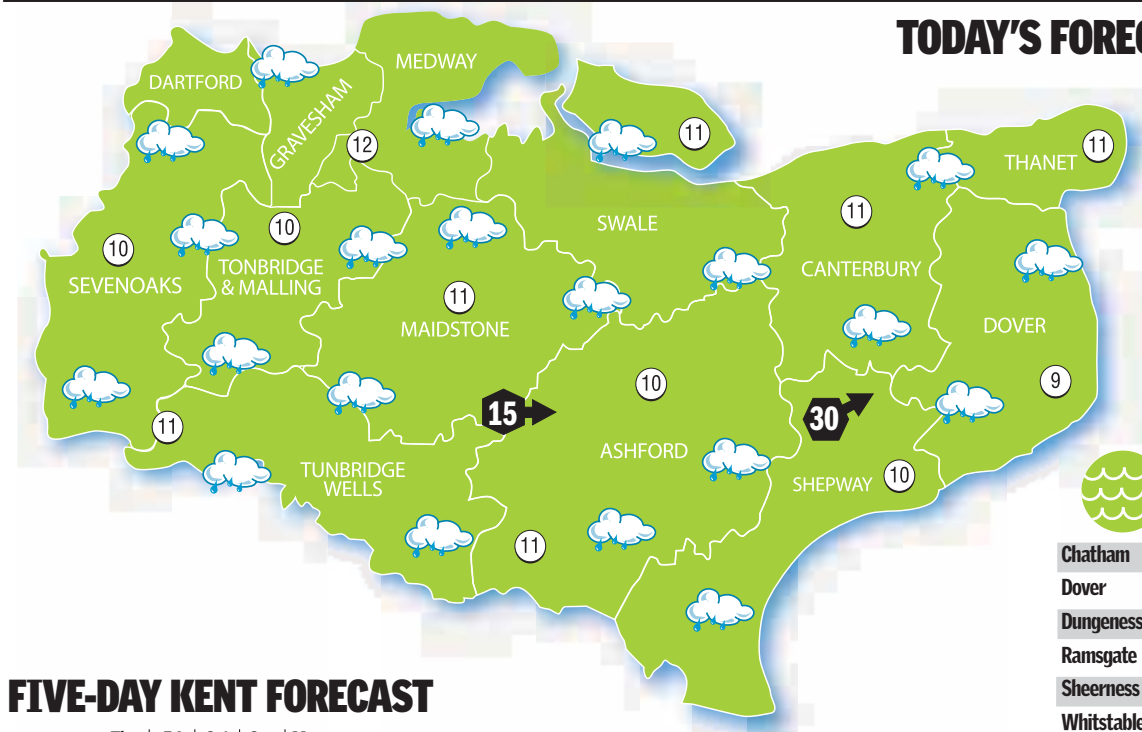
## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	3°C	Madrid	8°C
Athens	14°C	New York	1°C
Barcelona	14°C	Paris	7°C
Beijing	-2°C	Rome	15°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	25°C
Cape Town	23°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	8°C	Tokyo	5°C
Gibraltar	15°C	Vancouver	4°C
Hong Kong	14°C	Warsaw	2°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	18°C



## KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	8:03am 4.7m	Sunday	9:18am 4.8m
Dover	Saturday	6:33am 5.3m	Sunday	7:45am 5.4m
Dungeness	Saturday	6:47am 6.1m	Sunday	7:53am 6.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	7:03am 4.0m	Sunday	8:15am 4.1m
Sheerness	Saturday	7:51am 4.6m	Sunday	9:06am 4.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	7:45am 4.4m	Sunday	9:08am 4.5m



## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon															
Ashford	7°C	12°C	11°C	11°C	11°C	Dover	6°C	10°C	10°C	9°C	9°C	Gravesend	8°C	12°C	13°C	12°C	11°C	Sevenoaks	6°C	11°C
Canterbury	7°C	11°C	11°C	10°C	10°C	Faversham	8°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	Maidstone	8°C	12°C	12°C	11°C	11°C	Sittingbourne	8°C	11°C
Chatham	8°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	Folkestone	6°C	10°C	10°C	9°C	9°C	Ramsgate	7°C	11°C	11°C	10°C	10°C	Tonbridge	7°C	12°C
Dartford	8°C	12°C	13°C	12°C	11°C	Gillingham	8°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	Rochester	8°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	Tun Wells	7°C	12°C



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# yourmusic

## Enjoy live music at the Grey Lady



**TALENT:** Paul Dunton invites a variety of local musicians to perform on his nights

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

PAUL Dunton is a man who likes to make things happen, and he is proof that a bit of initiative can go a long way.

His efforts have been key in helping to establish a scene for quality music in Tunbridge Wells.

The Grey Lady Music Lounge in the Pantiles has been a venue for music for ten years now, since its reopening.

Paul is one of the artists who has helped it become a runaway success with his candlelit show-cases for those who have something to say with their music.

A musician himself, the story started when Paul found himself a regular on the bill.

He said: "The owner offered me a residency on a weekly basis as an artist, and I was really flattered and accepted. It was quite out of the blue for me and it started out on Wednesday nights, with me playing there once a week and carried on that way for a while.

"But after a while I decided to turn it into something else."

Five years ago the Paul Dunton and Guests nights began in earnest and the interest has grown, becoming a platform for solo artists and acoustic bands to play to appreciative audiences.

He said: "The idea was to invite others to get involved.

"I wasn't sure that me alone playing every week was enough to sustain an interest, and I knew that to keep it fresh it needed others to get involved.

"Pretty soon word really seemed to get around, to the point where it was growing organically. Then after about six months or so, CDs started to arrive in the

post for me to listen to. That's how the roster built up and now we have four acts that play each night and it has become a twice weekly thing."

He continued: "The standard of musicianship and songwriting ability is excellent, of a real high standard, and we offer that for just £5.

"It's worth coming along as I think it's a great night and people are supporting local artists.

"I haven't really encountered a lot of negativity towards the nights as yet, despite them going for five years and it's something I want to continue with for some time as it has had such a good reception. It has become an integral part of the local music scene and it really is packed out twice a week. If the appetite for it is there I see no reason to stop doing it and I hope people will continue to support it."

Before long the 32-year-old found himself at the centre of a small scene that was growing each week as more and more demos turned up for him.

More bands and acts then started to ask for audition sessions to try and get on the bill at the Grey Lady.

"It took me by surprise but it was a welcome surprise. The scene in Tunbridge Wells has a lot to offer, I've really discovered that and believe in what people here are doing."

Paul's own music is what he calls a cross between classical and pop and when he plays he performs with a violinist, cellist and other musicians.

He cites singer/songwriter Damian Rice as one influence and composer Samuel Barber as another and has been playing ten years now.



**HIGH SPEED TO THE SLOPES:** These days you can take a couple of days off work and be on the piste within hours of arriving at the airport

# yourgetaways



## It's easy to take a few days off work and hit the slopes

■ BY SARAH O'MEARA

ONCE a luxurious adventure suitable only for James Bond, families with hyphenated surnames and tax dodgers, skiing has now become a great holiday choice for everyone.

But it's only in the last few years that new, innovative holiday companies have started toying with the limitations of the 70s-style week package and giving more choice to those who want to ski frequently, for short periods – and not much money.

You can now nip off for three days skiing, two nights sleep, at a relatively low price, in order to keep those ski legs fresh.

And having headed to the slopes with Skiweekender.com, I can confirm that during the course of one weekend, the turnover of guests at their lodge near the resort of La Clusaz, just an hour from Geneva, is dizzying.

"It is more work," admits Jess Shirley-Smith from the website, over a beer, at the end of a long day working at Les Aravis lodge.

"Our aim is to make sure not a minute of a guest's time is wasted."

Sure enough, we were on the slopes within two hours of arriving at Geneva airport and could immediately see the benefits of this kind of trip. Arriving mid-week for a short stay in March, the airport was quiet, and with our ski passes and



equipment organised in advance, we were propelled effortlessly on to the deserted slopes by the grinning, youthful Skiweekender staff.

Instead of being part of the weekend rush, we had the chance to ski like locals and found fighting the fatigue a little easier than normal with the help of blasting fresh air, exercise and a biere, s'il vous plait.

"Staffing this kind of lodge is expensive," says Jess, hours later, when we're back in the lodge and plunked beside the bar.

"Chalets tend to be run by couples, so it's a different business model, but we work it out so the costs aren't passed on to the customer. French hotels won't do it this way; that's one of the reasons we ended up buying this hotel ourselves."

Skiweekender.com offer a wide range of packages to suit the individual, rather than the needs of a tour operator:

"We make sure everything is on tap as soon as guests get here," says Jess. "The boots, lift passes, rides to the lifts – all those things which usually hold you up. And you also pay for these up front, rather than getting there and suddenly wondering where 300 euros went."

"For us, the internet and Easyjet are key," laughs Jess. "People like the idea they can take a day or two off work and they're down the slopes. We see people coming back again and again. One guy has been three times, and blames his skiing addiction on us. Apparently we make made it too easy."



## MOTORS NEWS



### Zero per cent on the new C4 from the off

CITROËN'S stylish new C4 went on sale this week, priced from £15,595 and with zero per cent finance deals offered straight away.

Available in five-door format only for now, the new car's compact external dimensions contrast with generous internal volumes and a class-leading 408-litre boot.

The French marque has also gone upmarket with the cabin and there are luxury options such as Denon hi-fi and massaging front seats.

Powertrain options include four low-emission diesel and three petrol engines – the latter developed with BMW.



### New junior Audi wins top award for safety

AUDI'S new A1 supermini has earned the ultimate safety accolade – a maximum five-star Euro NCAP rating for frontal, rear or side collision, as well as for child safety and pedestrian protection.

It makes the A1 one of the safest small cars around and delivers further ammunition for its battle with fellow premium contender, the BMW Mini, and Fiat's retro star 500.

The most junior Audi is priced from £13,145 and the engine options are turbocharged 1.2 and 1.4-litre petrol units, plus a 1.6-litre diesel.



### Jazzed up Honda deals

HONDA'S British-built Jazz and Civic line-ups have gained from New Year customer savings and offers.

The Jazz (from £9,950) is now available with £1,000 off all models, while the Civic line-up now starts at £12,995 and with savings of up to £2,750.

Other incentives include three years' complimentary servicing on most Civics, tempting new finance deals and the return of Honda's popular 50/50 plan for the Jazz – customers pay half the cost of the car on collection and the balance a year later.



**IMPRESSIVE:** Peugeot says its RCZ coupé is not aimed at giving the likes of the Audi TT a run for their money, but a stunning drive, comfortable interior and host of extras give it a chance

# Peugeot's audacious bid to lionize classy coupé

IF PROOF were needed of Peugeot's new ambition to climb the world's car rankings, look no further than the stunning RCZ coupé.

The Audi TT is the most obvious target for the audacious Peugeot, except that the TT (from £26,475) is more expensive and more minimally equipped than the RCZ (from £20,450).

The upmarket RCZ GT HDi 163 (£25,550) model tested was laden with standard 'extras' such as powered and heated front seats, leather upholstery, parking aids and stunning alloys, and turned heads wherever it was seen.

You even get folding rear seats, allowing the rear of the cabin to be crammed far more than you would expect with that curvaceous roof.

And it steers and handles as crisply as it looks, aided by a tidy six-speed manual change. Sports car purists might moan that it's not rear-wheel drive, but that would have hiked the cost.

And it feels light yet well planted, particularly with the test car's smooth 163bhp 2.0-litre diesel engine.

There is no penalty to pay for the car's ability

## ROAD TEST PEUGEOT RCZ

BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

to tame a fast and winding route either; the ride quality is stunning for such a capable sports car and I could imagine driving a huge distance in the RCZ without feeling jaded at the other end.

The cabin is not a bad place to be either. Peugeot has made big strides here lately, opening up a lead over sister brand Citroën and arch-rival Renault.

There is also decent storage space and while the RCZ can never pretend to be more than a 2+2, it's a decent one.

Admittedly, grown-ups will struggle for headroom beneath the distinctive double-bubble rear roof; everyone said this would never be ported over from the original RCZ concept, but it has proved to be a practical way of using air flow to keep the rear screen clear of rain and crud.

The RCZ is also environmentally-friendly for a 'press on' motor; our RCZ diesel pushes out just 139g/km of CO2 and falls into road tax band-E (£110/year) and should average more than 50mpg – pretty impressive for a fun car.

Will there be a roadster to attack the TT on both fronts? Peugeot has said 'Non!', but the demand is out there.



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MORE ROAD TESTS  
BY STEVE LOADER @  
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55 FORD FOCUS PETROL HATCHBACK ZETEC (2005) 5 DR HATCHBACK 2.0 DURATEC 145 PS STA 12414 MILES	£5999	£3999	£2000
09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 - ) 15610 MILES	£9499	£7999	£1500
58 FORD FOCUS DIESEL ESTATE 1.8 TDCI ZETEC 5DR (2008 - 2009) 20429 MILES	£9999	£8499	£1500
09 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR (2008 - 2010) 18890 MILES	£11999	£9999	£2000
09 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [110] [DPF] (2008 - ) 18164 MILES	£11999	£10499	£1500
08 FORD FOCUS 2.5 ST-3 3DR 0 MILES	£13999	£13299	£700
09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 - ) 15610 MILES	£8999	£7999	£1000
09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 - ) 15610 MILES	£8799	£7799	£1000
09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 STYLE 5DR (2008 - ) 14960 MILES	£7999	£6999	£1000
09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 - ) 15610 MILES	£8799	£7799	£1000
10 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI ZETEC S 5DR (2008 - 2010) 18440 MILES	£16999	£15599	£1400
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES	£7999	£6499	£1500
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES	£7999	£6499	£1500
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14476 MILES	£7999	£6999	£1000
07 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES	£7799	£6999	£800
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 17012 MILES	£7999	£6999	£1000
59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (2010.5) 3 DR 1.25 82PS STAGE V (-) 12705 MILES	£8999	£7499	£1500
59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (2010.5) 3 DR 1.25 60PS STAGE V (-) 12314 MILES	£8999	£7499	£1500
59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (2010.5) 3 DR 1.25 60PS STAGE V (-) 12314 MILES	£8999	£7499	£1500
10 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR	£11999	£10499	£1500
56 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE]	£5999	£5499	£500
57 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 3DR [CLIMATE]	£5999	£5499	£500
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK EDGE (2009) 5 DR 1.4 68PS TDCI (-) 14130 MILES	£11999	£10499	£1500
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK ZETEC S (2010.5) 3 DR 1.6 TDCI 90PS STAGE V (-) 16315 MILES	£12999	£11999	£1000
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK ECONETIC (2009) 5 DR 1.6 TDCI 90 + DPF (-) 15188 MILES	£12999	£11999	£1000
57 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE] (2005 - 2008) 9655 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
58 FORD KA 1.2 STYLE+ 3DR	£7499	£6999	£500
09 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.2 TDCI TITANIUM X 5DR (2008 - 2010) 27091 MILES	£13999	£12999	£1000
09 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM X 5DR (2007 - 2010) 23205 MILES	£13999	£12999	£1000
59 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [140] AUTO (2008 - 2010) 25236 MILES	£13499	£12799	£700
57 FORD MONDEO PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (I) 5 DR 1.6 DURATEC 125PS (-) 14438 MILES	£8499	£7999	£500
57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK FUSION + (2007.25) 5-DR 1.6 100PS (-) 12317 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK ZETEC (2006) 5-DR AUTO 1.6 100PS (-) 10750 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
08 MINI COOPER 1.6 3DR 0 MILES	£11999	£9999	£2000
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008)	£3999	£3499	£500
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008)	£3999	£3499	£500
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008)	£3999	£3499	£500
05 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S 5DR	£5999	£4999	£1000
56 VOLVO V50 2.0 5DR 5DR [EURO 4]	£5999	£4999	£1000
53 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8i LS 5DR	£5999	£4999	£1000
07 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE 4DR	£5999	£4999	£1000
56 CITROEN C1 1.0i RHYTHM 3DR	£5999	£5199	£800
06 KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK 1.1 LX 5DR AUTO (2004 - 2006) 6218 MILES	£4499	£3999	£500
57 DAHATSU SIRION 1.0 SE 5DR	£5999	£4999	£1000
10 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR (2008 - 2010) 21556 MILES	£21999	£20999	£1000
03 MG ZR 1.8 120 + 3DR STEP AUTO	£2999	£2699	£300
57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK FUSION + (2007.25) 5-DR 1.6 100PS (-) 12317 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
02 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [110] [EURO 4] [CLIMATE PACK]	£5999	£4999	£1000
08 MINI COOPER 1.6 3DR	£11999	£9999	£2000
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008)	£3999	£3499	£500

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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Minister says we've seen end of the housing boom

BRITAIN'S property boom could be over for good, according to the housing minister in the Coalition Government.

Grant Shapps said homeowners should no longer rely on their houses to fund their retirement.

He said ministers were hoping to engineer an era of "house price stability" in which property values would gradually be eroded by rising earnings.

He suggested that in a 'rational' market, house prices might rise by two per cent while earnings rose by four per cent, making property more affordable over time.

The Government is trying to encourage councils and developers to build more homes to suppress the market and make it easier for first-time buyers to get on to the housing ladder.

Mr Shapps, a Conservative, said a fall in the real value of houses would ease the "horrendous" situation faced by millions of young people.

He said property should "primarily be thought of as a place to be your home" rather than as an investment.

"The main thing everyone requires for their subsistence is a roof over their head and when that basic human need becomes too expensive for average citizens to afford, something is out of kilter," he continued. "I think the answer is house-price stability."

### Give careful thought to your buy-to-let choice

INVESTORS may wish to consider the location and nature of a property more carefully when taking out a buy-to-let policy, say experts.

Analysts say buy-to-let is one of the top 20 ways to profit from the current dip in the housing market, but urges people to be cautious about where and what they are buying.

According to a survey most city centres have an abundance of flats, so the best returns come from letting three and four-bedroom houses to families.

According to the findings some letting agents have experienced rises of 20 per cent in 2010, but they do not expect a great deal of capital appreciation until at least 2012.

Buy-to-let landlords may also wish to consider empty properties as potential investment.

David Ireland – chief executive of charity Empty Homes – said it is easier and cheaper to convert such dwellings than to construct new ones.



# Slight price rise is not yet a sign of market recovery

■ BY NICK AMES

THE latest house price index from the Nationwide Building Society has revealed a 0.4 per cent rise for the month of December compared with November.

The latest rise means house prices are now just 0.4 per cent higher than this time last year, with the average UK home costing £162,763.

Nationwide's chief economist Martin Gahbauer, said: "Despite December's increase, house prices have fallen in four out of the last six months and it would be premature to suggest the recent downward trend has been broken on the basis of one month's figures."

House prices came under pressure this year as a high level of instructions outstripped buyer demand.

The prediction for house prices in 2011 is for a slight fall as demand for housing is expected to stay weak as a result of the uncertainty surrounding the economy and the Government's massive spending cuts.

Some experts are predicting falls of around five per cent in 2011, while many have suggested they could fall by as much as 10 per cent.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders is predicting that the housing market will remain subdued in 2011, due to uncertainty surrounding the economy and the ongoing mortgage rationing by lenders – but is optimistic that stamp duty legislation could assist those wanting to buy for the first time.

But it says lenders must be more flexible when deciding whether to assist them onto the housing ladder.

Over recent times, demand has been weak as many buyers have adopted a "wait and see" approach as uncertainty continues to surround the economy and the Government's spending cuts make prospective buyers cautious. However, the CML is hopeful that the £250,000 stamp duty exemption for first-time buyers may provide a modest boost to sales next year – particularly as the December 2011 deadline looms.

Despite this, the fact remains that first-time buyers continue to struggle to get onto the



**FLUCTUATIONS:** Despite a slight rise in house prices last month most predictions are for house prices to fall

property ladder as lenders are still demanding large deposits.

With regard to house prices, the CML expects them to fall modestly or stay flat next year as the availability of mortgages continues to "remain limited". The body does not expect lending levels experienced during the housing boom to return for many years.

Mortgage approvals are currently hovering around the 47,000 a month mark – this is less

than half the level reached at the height of the housing boom in 2007.

In the meantime, the CML predicts a modest rise in mortgage arrears and repossessions.

The spokesman explained this would be to reflect "the continuing pressure on household finances, the persistence of cases of long-term arrears and the government's decision to cut help for borrowers by cutting payments of support for mortgage interest."

## Now's the time for first timers to get a mortgage

MORTGAGE affordability in the UK for those looking to take their first steps onto the property ladder is at its most favourable for 12 years, according to the latest annual Halifax First Time Buyer Review.

Monthly mortgage costs as a proportion of income are now below the long term average

and 40 per cent of local authorities are affordable for first time buyers, a sevenfold increase on 2007, the report shows.

The proportion of disposable earnings devoted to mortgage payments by a potential new first time buyer stood at 27 per cent in the autumn of 2010, the lowest since December

1998 and almost half of the peak level of 50 per cent in September 2007.

This significant improvement in affordability over the past three years has been mainly driven by a combination of lower house prices and declining mortgage rates, the lender said.

**IF YOU ARE THINKING OF MOVING, TAKE A LOOK AT HOMES AND DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS THE COUNTY @ [yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)**



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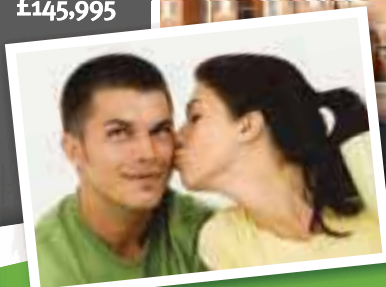
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**Senior & General Appointments** 26-28

## Johnson's GARDEN BUILDINGS

### Sales Assistants and Trainee Sales Assistants

Vacancies in Sevenoaks, Maidstone and Whitstable

Exciting direct sales opportunities with a major retailer of garden buildings in the South-East specialising in log cabins. Why not develop a new career with an expanding company in a growth sector selling this desirable and fashionable product.

All applicants would preferably have English language and basic mathematics equivalent to GCSE grade level C or higher. Candidates will require a basic knowledge of construction techniques applicable in this market sector and have the strong communication skills essential for dealing with the general public. Basic IT and administrative skills beneficial.

Some weekend work required, own transport essential. Full training provided to successful candidates. Between 30-48 hours per week.

Trainee Sales Assistants circa £15,000 per annum, full-time Sales Assistants on target earnings of £25,000 per annum according to level.

Please send CV with self-addressed envelope and detailed information on relevant experience to:

Human Resources, Johnson's Leisure Ltd, Old Thanet Way, Chestfield, Kent CT5 3JD.  
Or email [sales@needextraspaces.co.uk](mailto:sales@needextraspaces.co.uk).

Unfortunately telephone enquiries cannot be processed.

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### SENIOR HR OFFICER

An exciting and challenging new position is available for the post of Senior HR Officer.

This person is required to lead the HR team in developing and delivering a comprehensive, high quality HR service for the college, which employs around 400 staff.

Providing employment advice and guidance you will lead on policies and procedures ensuring that best HR practice is in place.

Salary: **£34,817**

Closing date: **20th January 2011**

For further details and to apply online please visit our website [www.thanet.ac.uk](http://www.thanet.ac.uk) and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

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## PURCHASING AND STOCK CONTROL PERSON

We are currently looking to recruit a Purchasing and Stock Control Processor here at our busy factory in Ramsgate.

The successful candidate would need to have good communication and I.T skills, work accurately at all times, be able to meet deadlines and work well as part of a team.

Previous experience desirable but not essential.

Starting salary from around £14,000 dependant on experience.

Please apply to Ray Kemp, Piper Double Glazing Limited, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP or e-mail [ray.kemp@piperwindows.co.uk](mailto:ray.kemp@piperwindows.co.uk).

Closing date for applications is Friday 14 January 2011, no agencies.

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The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

### Staff Nurse (Margate)

Full and part-time positions available  
Closing date for applications - Monday 17th January 2011

Qualifications  
Registered Nurse 1st Level  
Evidence of continual professional development  
ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)  
To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact  
Liz Justice - 01843 234555 Ext: 62207

For job description and application form please contact:  
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing  
QEOM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT19 4BG  
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333  
E-mail: [jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com](mailto:jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com)

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

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## COMMERCIAL MANAGER

An experienced Commercial Manager is required to head up our team of estimators working as a specialist subcontractor in the social housing refurbishment sector.

With contract values up to £6.5 million pa, candidates must be able to demonstrate expertise, flair and innovation in the preparation of Tenders, PQQ's and managing and assisting in Partnering Submissions for RSL's and Local Authorities as well as liaising closely with the commercial sales team and assisting with job cost feedback.

Based at the company's Head Office in Ramsgate, Kent, there will be a requirement for visits to sites and meetings with clients. Offered is a salary appropriate to your experience, together with contributory pension scheme.

Please apply in writing to Mr Ron Twyman  
Planning Manager, 140 Newington Road,  
Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP or  
e-mail [ron@piperwindows.co.uk](mailto:ron@piperwindows.co.uk)



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## Flexi Day Care Assistants

**Required For Residential Care Home  
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We are looking to recruit staff with relevant experience and a minimum of NVQ level 2. Experience caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager)  
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## SUPPORT WORKERS

Required

To assist in the provision of complete range of social, physical and personal care to adults with learning and physical disabilities, with the aim to enhance their independence in all areas.

Position part-time. Varied hours.  
Own transport is necessary due to location  
For more information contact Sally Brooks  
Tel: 01795 886220 or email:  
[ellenscourt@btconnect.com](mailto:ellenscourt@btconnect.com)

## Assistant Manager

**Required For Residential Care Home  
in Folkestone**

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person.

Must have minimum NVQ Level 3 qualification, and experience in caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager)  
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For an application pack please call 01843 282956, see our website  
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Deadline for applications – Fri 4th Feb, 12pm  
Interviews – w/b 7th Feb 2011

Margate Theatre Royal Trust is a registered charity (279015) and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

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## Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone are seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

### Lecturer in Beauty Therapy

Ref: M0210

#### Maternity Cover

Salary: £25,181 - £28,963 (dependent on qualifications and experience)  
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The College is currently looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

**CLOSING DATE: 12pm noon on Friday 21 January 2011**

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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## Maurice House, Broadstairs, Kent

We are looking to recruit to a variety of positions in Maurice House, our 47 bedded Residential and Nursing Home, based in Broadstairs, Kent. These are exciting opportunities for you to join one of the Legion's Poppy Homes, forming a major part of our welfare work to provide care for ex-Service people. We are looking to recruit for the following positions on a fixed term basis:

### Registered General Nurse (RGN)

10.5 hours per week on a nightly rota basis. Salary: £12.23 per hour

You will be expected to organise and take charge of all aspects of nursing and care services to optimal standards promoting person centred care. Candidates will have RN level 1 plus evidence of updated clinical practice.

### Care Assistant Positions

21 and 35 hours per week on a daily rota basis. 20 hours per week on a nightly rota basis

Flexi positions also available. Salary: £6.18 per hour

You will be expected to work as a team member in delivering high quality person centred care to our residents. Candidates will ideally have NVQ2 or willing to work towards the equivalent of this plus commitment to working within a care home environment.

### Cook

20 hours per week on a rota basis. Salary: £6.70 per hour

You will be expected to provide service and provision of all meals to residents, take charge of catering services in absence of Head Chef, working with other disciplines within the home.

Candidates will have NVQ in Cooking and Basic Food Preparation plus Food Hygiene certificate.

If you would like to apply for this role please visit our website [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk) to download an application form to complete and email to [mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk) or collect an application form from Maurice House and post or deliver to Maurice House no later than 30th January 2011.

Please note that CVs are not accepted and we are not seeking the assistance of Recruitment Agencies to help us with this vacancy.

Please note: We comply with current government legislation relating to the Default Retirement age (DRA) of 65 years and all Royal British Legion employees are retired upon reaching their 65th birthday.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted within two weeks of the closing date.



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## Bradstow School

Bradstow is a fascinating and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19, set in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, and have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

### HOUSEPARENT - CHILDCARE

£19,421 - £22,321 per annum - 40 hours per week  
(including split shifts and weekends) -  
Term time only, plus 2 weeks\*

Working as part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends being a student's Keyworker and some management responsibility.

### TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS - CHILDCARE

£4,994 - 15 hours per week (weekends only) -  
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Also Full-Time Team Support Worker positions available.  
As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students from Classrooms or Childcare Teams afternoons and evenings during the week and late or early shifts each weekend.

### CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

£10,079 plus 10% per annum -  
36.5 hours per week (including weekends) -  
Term time only, plus 2 weeks\*

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Pictures IGOR KUPCO



LOSING RUN: Deal's season is in danger of falling apart

## Sixth league defeat in row concern for Town

### Deal Town 0 Herne Bay 2

DEAL Town's miserable run of form goes on after Kent League leaders Herne Bay struck twice in the last 15 minutes to scoop three points at the Charles Sports Ground.

Now on a run of six consecutive league defeats, Deal's season is in danger of falling away, with almost all the sides below them having played fewer games.

However, there were promising signs from Derek Hares' side on Saturday as their direct approach caused Bay problems throughout the first-half.

### FOOTBALL

The hard-working hosts twice went close to an opener as Shane Suter and Jamie Marriott forced good saves from Bay goalkeeper Dan Eason, before Suter had claims for a penalty waved away.

After the break, though, it was Bay who took control of proceedings and Steve Hanson almost put them ahead when his towering header was scrambled off the line.

Darren Marsden's long-range effort shaved the crossbar as the visitors stepped

up the pressure and Brad Ashmore was twice called upon to deny Michael Jenner and Stuart King.

With 75 minutes on the clock, the deadlock was finally broken when Jenner's cross fell kindly for Luke Harvey, who set up King to place his shot beyond the despairing dive of Ashmore. Eight minutes later, the result was put beyond doubt when Harvey's strength and craft earned him a penalty and King stepped up to score at the second attempt, after Ashmore had saved his initial effort.

Deal return to action on Saturday as they travel to face Corinthian.

### RUGBY

Pictures IGOR KUPCO



FAST START: Dover scored four first-half tries

## Sharks' fast start is too much for Cobham

### Dover 36 Cobham 20

FOUR first-half tries sent Dover on their way to a third straight home win in London 1 South as Cobham failed to contain the Sharks' powerful opening salvo.

The home side ran in four tries before half-time to wrap up their bonus point, but a slack second-half display allowed the Surrey side to take some of the shine off Dover's victory.

Sharks skipper Martyn Beaumont experienced a mixed afternoon, chalking up two tries, but was handed a yellow card for a team infringement.

With Blair Charge back in the side having recovered from a broken leg, the hosts flew out of the traps and went ahead inside two minutes when good work from Jon Foster allowed outside-centre Ollie Faulkner to cross for the opening score.

Martyn Beaumont converted the try and as Dover's forwards dominated, they turned over a Cobham scrum and Mark Beaumont ran through to score.

Cobham got themselves on the scoreboard with a penalty, but Martyn Beaumont converted his own interception try and added a penalty to extend Dover's lead further.

The home side led 29-8 at the interval after Buster Collins and Ricky Mackintosh combined to set Ben Crawford up for Dover's fourth try, before Cobham rallied and touched down right on half-time.

Having served his time in the sin-bin, Martyn Beaumont returned to the field and doubled his afternoon's tally after collecting a clever Ben Murray pass to waltz through for another Dover try.

However, poor Sharks defending allowed Cobham to run in two tries and Dover will look to cut out the errors at struggling Chobham on Saturday.

Dover remain seventh in London 1 South, four points behind Kent rivals Beckenham, but well clear of the sides scrapping to climb out of the drop zone.

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CUP EXIT: Dover's faithful followers cheered on their side, but two early goals dashed their hopes and Adam Birchall (right) was unable to extend his amazing 11-goal FA Cup tally



Pictures SIMON HARRIS

# Whites urged to use FA Cup run as promotion springboard

DEFEAT at Huddersfield may have ended Dover Athletic's glorious FA Cup run but manager Martin Hayes has challenged his players to back up their cup success with promotion into Conference Premier.

The Whites conceded two early goals at the Galpharm Stadium and were never able to recover from the setback, despite a flurry of late half-chances.

However, Hayes was full of praise for his players and for the 1,500 travelling Dover fans who noisily backed their side from the first whistle to last.

### Attacking

He said: "The commitment and the drive of my players was fabulous, we kept going and gave everything with the fans behind that goal making a noise. Attacking them in the second-half, we kept going for it and we had three or four good half-chances to get back in the game and cause an upset.

"It was as tough as we thought it would be, Huddersfield are a good side with good players and they hit us with a couple of early sucker-punches. We were up against a very good League One side, they've got Championship

### FOOTBALL

BY STEVE TERTVET

### Huddersfield Town 2

Arfield 7, Roberts 8

### Dover Athletic 0

written all over them, and we've not embarrassed ourselves."

Having already claimed two Football League scalps en route to the third round, Dover were confident of retaining their giant-killing tag, but their plans were undone by two Terriers strikes inside a minute.

First, Scott Arfield latched onto Lee Novak's through-ball and slotted a neat finish beyond Ross Flitney before Gary Roberts fired high into the net after more good work by Novak.

Buoyed by the double-strike, Huddersfield controlled proceedings and could have added to their tally when Flitney produced a superb save to deny Alan Lee.

Adam Birchall had a late chance to put Dover on the scoresheet but the cup dream eventually came to an end, leaving Hayes to turn his

### Dover Athletic starting XI



Subs used: Long (Cogan 68), Wallis (Cutler 78)

attentions back to his ultimate task of taking the Whites out of Conference South.

"It was a good day, a great experience and now the lads have got to push for the next high, which is promotion," he said.

"I'm hoping the lads will know what they've done and if they take that into the league games, they'll be pleasantly surprised by the results they get.

"To reach the third round of the FA Cup is a great feeling and we got there by beating good sides. We want to challenge for promotion now because that would cap off a great season and show we're a good side over 42 games."

Dover, who travel to Farnborough on Saturday, welcomed Woking to Crabble last night. Log onto [www.yourdover.co.uk](http://www.yourdover.co.uk) for match details.



# Invicta edging closer to drop after latest defeat

## FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

### Folkestone 1

J Everitt 66

### Aveley 2

Howell 30 & 71

THE SCALE of the task to keep Folkestone Invicta in the Ryman Premier was again brought home on Saturday as they lost to fellow strugglers Aveley.

Defeat, the Seasiders' sixth in the last nine games, saw them slip to second from bottom in the table. It was made all the more painful by playing for 40 minutes with a man advantage following Josh Llewellyn's red card early in the second-half, but after James Everitt's equaliser Folkestone were unable to apply the killer touch.

Instead the visitors struck 19 minutes from time and looked the more likely to score in the closing stages.

Neil Cugley, Invicta's manager, admitted staying up looked an increasingly daunting prospect for a side which performed so well to achieve promotion last season.

"At the end of the day we've got to get 48 points, but how you get them I don't know," he said. "They look a long way off at the moment."



SLIPPERY SLOPE: Simon Austin can't hide his frustration

"When we were promoted I knew it would be a step up and we'd need to be on top of our game. The players had to keep playing to the standard they showed last year and let's be honest, they haven't done. I don't think you can moan at the lads we've brought in, they've helped, but the local players from last season haven't gone up that notch.

"They're not quite the same, but they're playing better players and I keep saying it, but they came from near enough our youth team some of them straight into the first-team."

With Allan Tait leaving for Kingstonian and Paul Jones (groin) still at least a month away from a return, Folkestone's lack of goals

### Folkestone Invicta starting XI



Subs used: Burchell (Gore 53), Webb (Conella 84)

remains the biggest concern. The team have scored just 13 in 20 league games, which is sure to send them down unless there is a dramatic transformation.

Ironically Aveley opened the scoring on Saturday, seconds after Invicta's best moment of the first-half. The home fans were still wondering how Dave McCartney had saved Simon Austin's superb swivelled volley when the visitors broke for Andy Howell to score.

A poor game between two desperately out of form sides was not helped by a heavy pitch, but Invicta were boosted five minutes after the break when Llewellyn saw red for a head butt.

When Everitt levelled from a close range header with more than a quarter of the game still to play it looked like the home side would go on to take the initiative. But Howell's lob five minutes later delivered a body blow from which the hosts never recovered.

In theory a trip to rock-bottom Croydon Athletic on Saturday offers a decent chance to take maximum points, but as Cugley admitted afterwards, the same could have been said for the Aveley game.

## RUGBY



RECOVERY: Folkestone fought off Bromley challenge

## Pack put Folkestone back on track to do double over Bromley

### Bromley 7 Folkestone 19

A BAD start gave way to an encouraging performance as Folkestone completed a league double over Bromley on Saturday.

Darren Molloy's side looked to be in for a long afternoon when they conceded a try inside the opening two minutes. It turned out to be the only time the visitors' defence was breached and tries from Richard Lama and Jack McMurray set up a victory which kept the Stones fourth in London 3 South East.

Bromley have a good record against Folkestone and looked determined to make up for the 23-17 defeat at the New Burlington Ground in September. Straight from the kick-off they forced a line-out five metres from Folkestone's line and when the visitors failed to secure the ball, a home player popped up to grab the ball and dive over to score. A well-struck conversion from out near the touchline made it 7-0.

### Influential

The response was led by Folkestone's pack, who began to put Bromley under pressure. Mat Roots was influential throughout, while David Baxter and McMurray disrupted the line-outs.

A penalty for off-side allowed Seyhan Fell to reduce the deficit to four points and despite careless handling wasting several good chances, the visitors took a lead into the break. A scrum in the home 22 saw Jake Johnson earn a few yards before releasing the ball to Lama, who received it at pace and dived for the line to put Folkestone one point ahead.

Fell's second penalty took the score to 7-11 shortly after the resumption.

Their second try was a beauty and the move began in the visitors' 22 when Roots stole the ball. It began a sequence which saw Drew Woolford and McMurray twice exchange passes, with the latter diving over.

A third Fell penalty late on completed the scoring.

The Stones have the chance to complete another double on Saturday when they host bottom side Dartfordians.

## LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

### CONFERENCE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Braintree Town	18	12	3	3	+21	39
2 Bromley	21	10	8	3	+1	38
3 Welwyn United (-5)	20	13	3	4	+20	37
4 Chesham City	17	11	3	3	+16	36
5 Farnborough	20	10	5	5	+12	35
6 Ebbsfleet United	18	10	5	3	+11	35
7 Dover Athletic	18	10	4	4	+19	34
8 Eastleigh	19	10	4	5	+14	34
9 Weston-super-Mare	23	8	5	10	-5	29
10 Bishop's Cleeve	21	9	2	10	-10	29
11 Woking	20	7	6	7	-9	27
12 Maidenhead United	20	7	6	7	-9	24
13 Havant & Waterlooville	17	6	6	6	+2	23
14 Staines Town	19	5	7	7	-3	22
15 Hampton & Richmond Boro	18	4	9	5	-4	21
16 Basingstoke Town	18	5	6	7	-4	21
17 Dorchester Town	19	5	5	9	-3	20
18 St Albans City	19	3	8	8	-12	17
19 Dartford	19	3	6	10	-9	15
20 Thurrock	20	3	6	11	-20	15
21 Lewes	21	3	3	15	-19	12
22 Boreham Wood	19	2	5	12	-18	11

### RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

1 Sutton United	21	12	6	3	+17	42
2 Bury Town	20	11	5	4	+9	38
3 Cray Wanderers	21	11	4	6	+20	37
4 Kingstonian	20	11	3	6	+9	36
5 Lowestoft Town	17	10	5	2	+16	35
6 AFC Hornchurch	20	9	6	5	+6	33
7 Concord Rangers	20	9	5	6	+5	32
8 Tonbridge Angels	19	9	4	7	+3	31
9 Carshalton Athletic	20	9	3	8	+9	30
10 Harrow Borough	19	9	3	7	+8	30
11 Billerica Town	20	8	5	7	-1	29
12 Canvey Island	20	7	7	6	-1	28
13 Hendon	16	7	5	6	+8	26
14 Horsham	21	7	5	9	-11	26
15 Tooting & Mitcham United	23	6	8	9	-13	26
16 Margate	21	6	6	9	-1	24
17 Wealdstone	21	6	5	10	-5	23
18 Hastings United	21	4	6	11	-8	18
19 Maidstone United	21	3	8	10	-14	17
20 Aveley	20	4	4	12	-17	16
21 Folkestone Invicta	20	3	6	11	-14	15
22 Croydon Athletic	21	4	3	14	-29	15

### KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

1 Herne Bay	15	9	5	1	+14	32
2 Erith Town	14	7	4	3	+25	47
3 VCD Athletic	12	7	4	1	+7	25
4 Hythe Town	12	7	2	3	+10	23
5 Beckenham Town	13	7	2	4	+6	23
6 Greenwich Borough	11	7	0	4	+17	21
7 Norton Sports	13	4	6	3	+1	18
8 Sevenoaks Town	12	5	1	6	-3	16
9 Deal Town	14	5	1	8	-10	16
10 Tunbridge Wells	10	4	3	3	+8	15
11 Fisher	13	4	2	7	-6	14
12 Erith & Belvedere	10	4	1	5	-1	13
13 Holmesdale	15	2	6	7	-9	12
14 Lordswood	14	3	2	9	-7	11
15 Corinthian	12	3	2	7	-9	11
16 Sporting Bengal United	14	3	1	10	-25	10

### FIXTURES (Saturday)

CONFERENCE SOUTH: Farnborough v Dover Athletic  
RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION: Croydon Athletic v Folkestone Invicta  
KENT SENIOR TROPHY SECOND ROUND: Norton Sports v Hythe Town  
KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Corinthian v Deal Town

# Town seek striker to add to touch of Cass up front

## FOOTBALL

HYTHE Town are in talks about signing a new striker to take some of the goal-scoring responsibility off top-scorer Brendon Cass.

If all goes to plan the latest addition to the squad could be in place before Saturday's rearranged trip to Norton Sports in the Kent Senior Trophy.

Scott Porter, Town's boss, is happy with Cass, who has 17 goals in all competitions, but feels his side are in need of some added firepower in the second-half of the season.

He said: "We're looking at bringing another forward in, I think we need one to bolster things up."

"We've got everything else we need in other positions, Brendon's been doing a great job up there on his own because Gary Mickelborough's not been well and Craig Thompson's been a bit hit and miss. "We're lacking a bit of confidence in front of goal and bringing someone new in might give everyone a lift."

Hythe endured another blank weekend as their trip to Norton on Saturday was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch. To make matters worse, Herne Bay's trip to Deal Town went ahead and a 2-0 win took them nine points ahead of Porter's side, who have three games in hand.

Hythe's focus for the moment is still distracted by cup competitions, with their two-legged League Cup quarter-final against Sevenoaks Town beginning at Greatness Park last night, log on to [www.yourshepway.co.uk](http://www.yourshepway.co.uk) for the details.



LONE STRIKER: Hythe are seeking a new forward to take some of the pressure off top-scorer Brendon Cass

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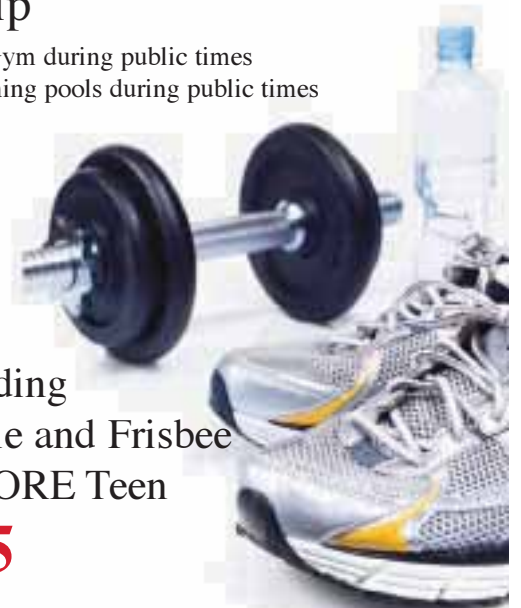
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